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Niagara NEWS

NOV. 27, 1998 FREE VOLUME 29, NO. 5

The pen is a formidable weapon, but a man can kill himself with it a great deal more easily than he can other people.

— George Denison Prentice

Todd MacDonald, 30, calls this locker, on Spadina Avenue, home. MacDonald is just one of the thousands of homeless who live on the streets of Toronto.

Photo by Sean Coffey, Inset by Melinda Johnston

Year 2000 preparations under way

By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer

The coming millennium may cause severe problems for computer owners.

The millennium bug, or Y2K, as it is better known, may affect computers whose software calculates the difference between any two years.

When the calendar rolls over to Jan. 1, 2000, computer systems with date-dependent software will read the date as the year 1900 rather than 2000.

Niagara College considers the problem "extremely serious" in that all systems and devices that are date-dependent are Year 2000 compliant. If not it may lead to those systems malfunctioning after Dec. 31, 1999.

Hans van der Slagt, vice-president administration, says the college has been preparing to be Y2K compliant for several years.

Preparation includes the identification of systems and devices that are date-dependent, communicating with suppliers to determine Y2K compliance, and testing those systems and devices to determine whether they will function after Dec. 31, 1999.

If it is determined those systems will not function, reprogramming or replacement will be necessary.

Van der Slagt is chairing a task force to direct the college towards Y2K compliance. Other members are Beth Weldon, director, management information services; Leo Tiberi, director, Communications and Information Technology Division; Joanne McKee, director, financial services; Mal Woodhouse, director, facilities management services; and Hilda Belcastro, manager, purchasing.

"Beyond this task force, virtually every employee at the college will have some responsibilities related to Y2K compliance," says van der Slagt.

The task force will focus its efforts on systems which are vital to the operation of the college.

Further, says van der Slagt, each department and division manager will work with staff to ensure the compliance of less essential systems to the college.

"Everyone who relies on a date-dependent device — whether (it is) a computer, a car, a heating system, etc. — everyone will be affected," says van der Slagt.

"Niagara College believes that it has put the necessary resources in place to be Y2K compliant in all areas of significance."

PR students to survey alumni's needs

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

For the first time in Niagara College's history, the Foundation office is using Public Relations (Post-Graduate) program students to gather information on what graduating students expect from alumni services.

Julianne Momirov teaches the research methods course in the program. She says she has her 34 students divided into seven groups. Each group is doing specific aspects of one major research project.

"We've tried to tackle this from all different areas so that Liz (Palmieri, development associate for the Niagara College Foundation) would have a lot of diversity in her information and, hopefully, through that diversity come up with similarities."

She says three groups are surveying full-time day students.

Another group is looking at "non-traditional students." She says this group "may include students who come in during evenings and weekends to do their certificates or their programs," students in apprenticeship programs and those in the distance learning and open-access computer learning programs.

The success of obtaining information from this group will depend on the accessibility of these students, says Momirov.

She says the fifth group is looking at other colleges and universities and "what they are doing in terms of keeping in touch with their alumni."

The sixth group is investigating whether attending classes on a particular campus will affect how the students feel about the college.

"Would they feel more loyalty to their campus rather than to the college itself? (This) may in turn influence what they may desire of alumni services."

The seventh group is a focus group looking at students who have a university background versus students who have only experienced college.

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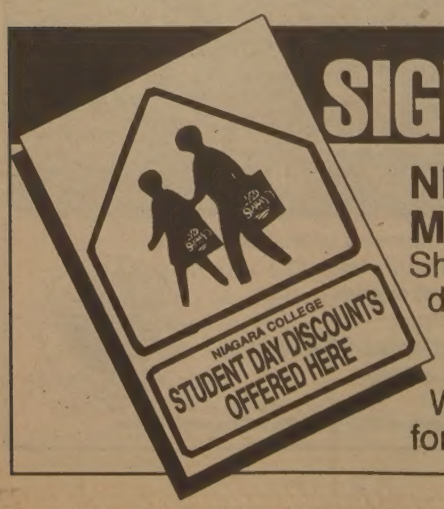

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Eye On Niagara

Reporter receives top academic prize

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

A Journalism-Print program graduate was "actually surprised" after winning the Governor General's Academic Medal.

Kevin Harding, 26, of Welland, is Niagara College's top graduate of 1998 with an academic average of 95.9 per cent.

For his accomplishments, Harding was given the prestigious medal at this year's college's convocation held Nov. 13 at the Glendale campus, in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The medal contains the name of Governor General Romeo LeBlanc.

The award is given to the student who has the highest academic standing in the institutution that student attends.

Harding said he was "actually surprised" after winning the award because he was not even aware it existed.

Harding works full time for the Niagara Falls Review as a reporter and photographer.

He said it "just seemed natural" to go into journalism after he had earned his honours bachelor of arts degree in history from the University of Western Ontario in London.

He said he enjoys the written disciplines and, since his time at the college, has learned to take pleasure in photography.

Harding's degree allowed him to enter the program without taking the first year's classes.

To catch up, Harding said he read the Canadian Press Stylebook cover to cover and did extra work in the darkroom because he had never before used a manual camera.

He started the program in September 1997 and by Jan. 19, 1998, had been hired full time for the Welland Tribune.

Harding was able to keep up his high marks by handing in stories he had written for the Tribune as assignments for class.

"If I had to credit one thing to my high marks, it's my degree," said Harding, adding the four years he spent at Western helped to prepare him for the work he did at the college and for the Tribune.

He started the program in September 1997 and by Jan. 19, 1998, had been hired full time by the Welland Tribune

Harding worked for the Tribune until the end of April. After that, he freelanced for the Tribune and its affiliated papers. On Oct. 1 of this year, Harding was hired at the Niagara Falls Review to work in the newspaper's Fort Erie bureau.

He said inspiring journalists "have to know both: the writing and the photography" in order to get a job.

He said he would like to continue writing for newspapers and in the future try his hand at freelancing and magazine writing.

Harding said he didn't like being the one to answer the questions of a reporter, adding he'd prefer to ask them.

He said he thought this experience may help him in his career.

Kevin Harding, 26, of Welland, poses in front of his old haunt, the Niagara News journalism lab, with the Governor General's Academic Medal he won on Nov. 13.

Photo by Leah Farnan

President Patterson's listening

Glendale's first president's forum

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

Bring your questions and comments because the Niagara College president is listening.

On Dec. 3, the Glendale campus will be hosting the President's Advisory Forum.

This will be the first opportunity for the students there to meet and talk with Dan Patterson, college president. The forum is designed to be an interactive forum for Patterson to share information with the students and get feedback from them.

He would like to know the opinions of the students, the staff and the faculty on the new campus. He would like to know what they like and dislike, and what changes and/or improvements they would like to see.

The session, entitled "Can we talk?" will be held at the Glendale Pub from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. to set a "relaxed" atmosphere. Students who attend will receive free pizza.

This is your chance to be heard. Come to meet the president and speak your mind. You can make a difference.

Survey's findings are important

(Continued from page 1)

The purpose is to see if there's a difference between college and university students' expectations in terms of alumni services, says Momirov, adding it's an opportunity to see "if, in fact, universities are better at keeping in connection with their alumni students."

Each group is responsible for developing its own questionnaire and gathering information.

"I've just let them go ahead and develop their own ways of accessing students, with certain guidelines. It's a research methods course so part of what they have to do is figure out how to do research based on the information I've given them."

The groups will be doing presentations before their classmates on Dec. 9 and Dec. 16. The surveys' findings will then be forwarded to Palmieri's office.

She says these will be "amalgamated with the results we get from the surveys of the current alumni" to devise a long-range plan for the college's alumni services.

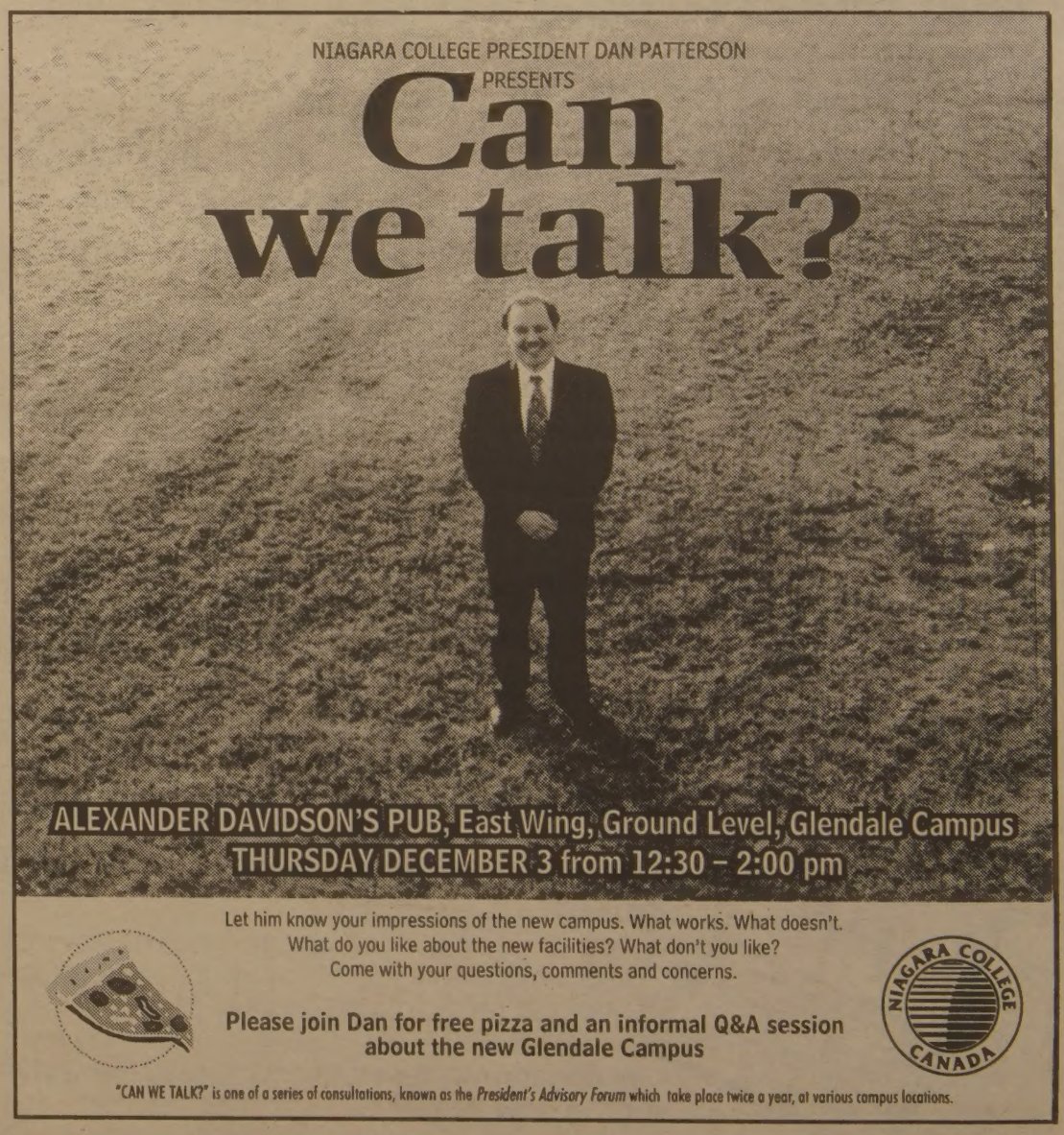
A survey mailout will go out to 200 alumni next week

Palmieri says she has received about 30 responses from surveys enclosed in last month's issue of NCOMPASS, the college's alumni newsletter.

A survey mailout will go to 200 alumni next week "asking them for their feedback on what they want in terms of alumni services, and what they would be able to contribute to the college as an alumnus."

"I'm really looking forward to seeing the results of (the students') surveys. I hope that they turn out to have really good data," says Momirov.

Interested students who would like to take part in this research survey can contact Nancy Geddie, coordinator of the Public Relations *(Post-Graduate) program at 905-*735-2211 ext. 7727 or e-mail ngeddie@niagarac.on.ca. Momirov can be reached at jmomirov@paradigm.soci.brocku.ca.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"CAN WE TALK?" is one of a series of consultations, known as the President's Advisory Forum which take place twice a year, at various campus locations.

Eye On Niagara

IBM searching for 'dynamic' college students

Networking worldwide

By J.W. BROWN
Staff Writer

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — An IBM Canada information session was given at Niagara College's Glendale campus, on Nov. 18, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Mike Groat, 42, of Whitby, manager of resources for Information Systems Management Corporation, a subsidiary owned by IBM Canada, has worked for the company since 1979. He addressed a packed auditorium E101. The auditorium seats 240.

"What we're here to do is share with the students the changes that have gone on with IBM and the opportunities that exist within IBM, and encourage them to consider us as an employer."

IBM has committed itself to a networked future because only in a network can data be easily and instantly made available to every user who needs it. Only in a network can the same application, the same tools and the same information be shared throughout a corporation, across a continent and around the world, he said.

One of the speakers, Susan Lam, 24, of Toronto, a graduate of the Arts and Science program at the University of Toronto, has worked for IBM, at the head office in Markham, for three months as a co-op co-ordinator.

"I think it's great. Our student programs are an effective way to identify dynamic individuals for full-time employment."

Two of the speakers are students in the IBM Internship program in Markham. Both started in May 1998.

Patrick Sweitzer, 22, of Scarborough, is a third-year student in the Computer Engineering Technology (Co-op) program at Niagara College's Welland campus.

"I really enjoy the internship program. I feel like I've been taken in as part of the team. As far as tonight, what I wanted to do was inform my fellow Niagara College students about the opportunities IBM has for co-op students and graduates."

Mark Antenucci, 21, of Brampton, is a third-year student in the Computer Science program at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay.

"I really enjoy it. It's challenging. It offers a lot of insight into the business and technical operation of a large corporation."

For information about IBM or the internship program, contact Employment Services, ext. 7787 at the Welland campus, ext. 4023 at the Glendale campus and ext. 3614 at the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls.

Education must create growth economically within Region, consultant tells college board

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Niagara's growing economy will create more jobs.

Luigi Bertulli, a human resources consultant for the Niagara Economic and Tourism Corporation (NETCorp), gave a presentation to the college's board of governors on Nov. 12.

Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College, said Bertulli has a "very extensive" career in human resources in the Niagara Region, adding the presentation to the board is just one step in a long list of presentations Bertulli has made to many organizations around the region.

Bertulli focused on jobs and the labour market in Niagara.

His presentation included some interesting facts on Niagara's economy.

Bertulli said a Statistics Canada report on Niagara's labour market shows an increase in population of 6.4 per cent from 1986 to 1991, and a further 2.4 per cent increase from 1991 to 1996.

All municipalities have seen a growth except Port Colborne, which has seen a 1.7 per cent decline, he said.

Bertulli said 58 per cent of all Niagara employers are considered to be small businesses, with 8.1 per cent of experienced labour being self-employed.

Bertulli commented on the turnaround of Niagara's economy.

He said Niagara had the highest unemployment rate in Canada in 1993.

In contrast, he said there are companies in Niagara now that are only two or three years old and already have 50 employees.

"The basis for growth is here and we have to build on that," he said.

Bertulli criticized the media for always looking for the negative side of the job situation in Niagara.

He said there is no reason for this negativity.

Niagara saw 10,000 more people working this October than last October, he said.

Bertulli said education is a key factor.

"The more you learn, the more you earn," he said.

He gave an example of some people in Niagara's hospitality and tourism market who are earning $70,000 a year.

He said the challenge for education these days is to create growth. Instead of trying to attract labour and jobs from outside the region, the region should be trying to build on what it has.

Bertulli said the jobs in demand are in health care, tourism, agribusiness and multi-skilled trades.

High schools should be pushing students not destined for university or college to get involved with the skilled trades, he said.

Bertulli said Niagara will see more jobs in the future in areas such as call centres, casinos and the environment.

He said Niagara Falls, in particular, is looking at a proposed development plan that will create many jobs.

For example, he said there could be as many as 14 new hotels being built in Niagara Falls. Some of these will be three to five star-rated with 2,000 rooms and 200 to 600 employees per hotel.

In addition, the Skylon Tower is considering adding an entertainment centre and retail section with 77 tenants, including two full-service hotels. This would create 1,000 to 1,500 jobs, he said, adding the new casino will create 5,000 directly related jobs.

However, Niagara Falls is not the only area which will prosper.

Port Colborne is likely to become a popular cruise destination for European cruise ships, an activity which in turn will benefit all surrounding municipalities, said Bertulli.

General Motors Canada is proposing the creation of a $400-million engine plant in St. Catharines, he said.

Tom Gauld, chair of the board of governors, thanked Bertulli for an "energizing" presentation.

Students brush up resumes for high-tech fair

By JENN MOIR
Staff Writer

The second annual High-tech Career Fair took place at Niagara College. Day 2 of the fair was on Nov. 19 at the Welland campus.

The fair, organized by the college's Employment Services, highlighted 14 companies that were offering employment or co-op positions for graduating students in information, technology and communication programs.

Day 1 of the fair was held at the Glendale campus, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, with an IBM presentation.

Jean Brodie, co-op consultant for employment services, says the fair allows companies to "promote" themselves and get the students into "a hiring mode."

Some of the companies that were accepting student resumes were Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd., of Welland, Sinclair Technologies Inc., of Aurora, Wheel Monitor Inc., of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Fantom Technologies Inc., of Welland.

A two-day High-tech Career Fair showcased 14 companies that offered co-op and job positions to students.
Photo by Jenn Moir

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International

South African visitors tour campus

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

A Business and Technology Enterprise Centre (BTEC) is about to be established in South Africa.

Three South African visitors from the Eastern Cape Technikon (ECT) in Butterworth, South Africa, are William Baiden Amissah, 60, head of the Communication Languages Department, Luyanda Ghana Matolengwe, 40, lecturer of the Teacher Education Department, and Z. A. Mkoko, 44, senior lecturer of the Mechanical Engineering Department.

They came to Canada on Nov. 6, to co-facilitate the design of curriculum, workshops and seminars.

"We are reviewing the curriculum and getting in touch with businesses that have been set up in the Niagara region," said Amissah.

Originally established as a satellite campus of the University of Transkei, the ECT has developed its own vision, applied programming base, and administrative and governing structure to become an autonomous training institution.

Amissah said they attended a Marketing class in the Public Relations program and toured the Centre for Integrated Manufacturing at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"We are supposed to set up a BTEC in our institution (ECT), to get together people who are pioneering this project and to produce the curriculum that were developed here as soon as we go back to South Africa," said Matolengwe.

'I suggest the Canadian government provide funds for the project.'

—Matolengwe

Promoting the BTEC establishment project of the ECT are from left, Z. A. Mkoko, 44, Luyanda Ghana Matolengwe, 40, and William Baiden Amissah, 60, all from South Africa.

Photo by Mun-Hee Shin

The ECT has become a regional training centre offering programs in engineering, applied technologies and business sciences at the diploma level.

In addition, it offers shorter skills training programs, courses and community-based adult education in response to needs in the community.

"I suggest the Canadian government provide funds for the project," said Matolengwe.

At present the project is sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency.

"At this point we are not aware of the practical impact on South African students. That's why we are here to introduce them to the curriculum and help them get funds to start their own businesses," said Amissah.

Canada, good experience for student

Living abroad, good chance to develop independence

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

She said she wants to be an internationalized person.

Eileen Jen, 22, of Taiwan, is a first-year student in the Office Administration program.

She said her real name is Shu-Chun Jen, and she came to Canada in May of last year because she always wanted to study abroad.

"I wasn't sure whether I wanted to go to the U.S. or Canada at the time, but finally I chose Canada because I believed Canadians are more friendly than Americans."

She took the English as a Second Language program for one year, level 2 for one term and level 3 for two terms, and has been taking the Office Administration program since September this year.

'I chose Canada because I believed Canadians are more friendly than Americans.'

— Jen

"I like the program because it's very practical, and my teachers are proficient in teaching and care about their students."

Asked what the hardest thing is in studying, Jen said her concern is about typing, which is one of the courses she's taking, and her typing scores are not good enough.

Jen said she "likes to stay home and relax," watching movies with her friends, during weekends.

"Living in Canada is quite a different experience. It's a good chance for me to train myself to be independent, which is very important to me."

EILEEN JEN

She said she doesn't feel homesick anymore, although she did have those feelings for a couple of months as soon as she got here.

"At the time I used to cry and see my family pictures as often as possible. Especially I missed my mother the most."

During winter vacation, she plans to go to South Korea to participate in her friend's wedding and to see her boyfriend, who went back to South Korea this August.

In Taiwan, if one can speak English well, one can get a better job with better pay.

"However, I hope someday Chinese can become a global language in the world," said Jen.

She added she'd like to find a job in a field she's interested in and in which she can learn something new. She says she would also like to learn another language.

"Speaking different languages will make me become a real internationalized person, and I really would like to be that person in the future."

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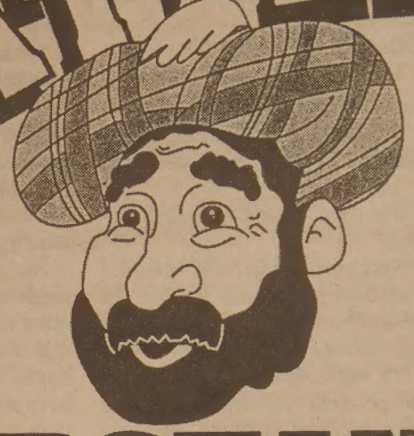

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Profiles

Board 'natural step' from student government

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

His competitiveness drives his desire to succeed.

Don Woodruff, 23, of St. Davids, Ont., is this year's student representative on the Niagara College Board of Governors.

He is a graduate of the two-year Business — Retail Management program and is in his third and final year of the Business Administration — Operations Management (Co-op) program.

Woodruff said when he came to Niagara he got involved with the Student Administrative Council (SAC) because he didn't understand why he was paying $132 out of his pocket for functions and events he might not attend.

He said in his first year he was a class representative. In his second year he was elected as student representative. Then he ran for executive vice-president and finally, president.

"It was just a natural flow," said Woodruff.

After being elected a class and then a student representative, he said the interest was there to continue.

He said he wanted "to understand more about the college and to get more involved because of the dynamics of the college and where it was going." He wants other students to be part of this. He'd like them to understand what the college is doing for them and the community besides what the community could do for the college.

"Coming to the board of governors was a natural step from being president (of SAC) and from having prior knowledge of the college system."

The transition was easy for him, he said, adding it was easy to understand what the college was looking for in the future as he had the experience of being on SAC.

Woodruff said his drive to be successful and competitive comes from his past.

In his youth he was "very involved" in sports starting with soccer then hockey, basketball and finally swimming, he said.

"A lot of what I do in my life now plays off what I've learned in sports."

He said the people who taught him how to improve himself are the ones who stand out in his memory.

"I've always been blessed with very focused individuals for teachers and coaches."

Woodruff recalled his Grade 7 science and homeroom teacher, Brian Taylor, who he said could take his students into the world of science in such a way they could actually visualize it.

"You wanted to learn."

Though he hasn't chosen science as a career, he said he brings that same focus into his business studies.

His high school business teacher, Ted Grimwood, is the one who made him want to go into business as a career and helped him understand the world of an entrepreneur, he said.

"He gave me my love for business."

Woodruff said he hasn't decided whether he wants to be an entrepreneur or a leader in an industrial setting.

His work ethic is to always put in 110 per cent. He says he realizes there won't be someone else to do the job, adding you have to look at something and take the initiative to do it yourself.

Learning how to manage time effectively has been an important new skill, he said.

Throughout his college years he's always had two jobs, he said, adding this was in addition to his SAC duties.

"It's a matter of managing the time.

"A lot of people have a lot on their plates," he said, adding if they focus and work together as a team they will see how much easier things can be.

"That's what life is about. It's about playing off each other's strong points."

He said this doesn't necessarily mean material things, but more each other's skills and abilities.

Woodruff said in 20 years he hopes to be healthy, be married, have children, be employed and be spending time with his family.

He said it doesn't matter what he's doing he just wants to be employed doing whatever anyone wants him to do.

However, Woodruff said, "I hope I will still be in the classroom," adding there is no end to learning.

"I would definitely say a higher education and lifelong learning makes an easier trail in life."

Double major in programs offers 'more flexibility'

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

Golf management, financial management and International Business are among new programs being actively developed in Niagara College's Business and Entrepreneurship division.

An expected launch date for golf management and the financial management programs is September 1999. The start of International Business, a two-year diploma program, is undecided as the college examines expanding related programs into a three-year "cluster."

"This would create in-depth expertise for the students," says Neil Chartrand, new director of the Business and Entrepreneurship division.

Among his plans, Chartrand mentions new programming within his division. The college would like to offer students the option to study in a double major.

Students in a two-year program will have the option to finish their program. If they'd like to commit to another year, they can take another program, finish it in one year and leave the college with a double major.

"The theory behind this is that the students will have two working knowledge of two complementary disciplines, giving the individual more flexibility."

International trade is a major specialty of the 21st century.

"Niagara College is committed to making international trade a major portion of what we do in the school of business."

The college's international programming is recognized, by national and international standards, as being of the highest quality.

With a "passionate belief" in encouraging exchanges in trade, the college has, for years, been learning about different cultures and languages to create a better trading relationship with various countries.

"Niagara College wants to be recognized as a world class international trade trainer, and what better way to do that than to provide international training?" says Chartrand.

The college has relationships with Chile and Mexico and would like to add China and other countries, to teach them the "benefits" of trading.

Constant change welcomed by supportive vice-president

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

He's given 19 years of dedicated service to Niagara College.

Throughout the college's history, many faces have come and gone. Some retire, some move on, but one face that has stayed is that of Hans van der Slagt.

Van der Slagt first came to Niagara College in 1979. When he arrived he took on the responsibility of dean of business. He fulfilled this position until 1988, and then switched to his present position as vice-president of administration.

As vice-president, van der Slagt is responsible for many different departments. His responsibilities have "shifted, expanded and retracted depending on what the priority of the day was," he says.

His post first became available in 1988 when Jackie Robarts, college president at the time, decided to create two vice-president positions.

One was in charge of all academic issues, such as programming, post-secondary and post-graduate education, and contract trading — everything that involved the student community.

The other position, taken on by van der Slagt, had to deal with "everything else in the college, all of the non-academic stuff."

Van der Slagt's duties changed again in 1990 when John Saso became president of the college. He decided to create two more vice-president positions and shifted responsibilities.

With these changes, van der Slagt's position became a "bit more focused."

At the present time, van der Slagt's responsibilities include ancillary services, facilities management services, financial services, human resources, information services, learning resource centres and Master Plan implementation.

As well as being the vice-president of administration, van der Slagt is also on the board of governors. He has served as treasurer since 1988.

The board, which includes the four vice-presidents and the college president, meets twice monthly. Each plans his or her own "corner" and collectively, they support each other through meetings, budget, setting goals and objectives coming in the next year through the Master Planning process.

Van der Slagt's role is to support the programs and services of the college, to support corporate clients who come to the college for education training purposes and to meet the needs of the community. "That is what we are here for," says van der Slagt.

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Profiles

It's been 10 enjoyable years for Lowry on campus

By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

Students come and go at Niagara College, but one thing has remained the same for 10 consecutive years.

A proud man in dapper attire awaited yet another interview and picture from the Niagara College press.

Leon Lowry, 55, of 675 Tanguay Pl., Welland, Ont., sat patiently with a book and a hot cup of coffee.

This soft-spoken man is very open with his life stories, and is one of the most recognizable students around the Welland campus.

On Nov. 1, 1988, he enrolled at Niagara College and began his education in the Ontario Basic Skills program. Ten years later, Lowry is still involved on campus in college activities, special events and fund-raisers.

Preceding the Basic Skills program, Lowry entered the Continuing Education program, majoring in Volunteer Management.

Lowry is well known at the Seaway Mall, where he devotes most of his time to fund-raising and helping organizations such as Big Sisters, Big Brothers, the United Way, Kinsmen and Kiwanis club and Women's Place.

Lowry is also a faithful worker for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the Niagara College Stusent Administrative Coucil.

Every year at Christmas, Lowry sells Christmas ornaments for the United Way, wearing a red and white stocking on his head topped off with a jingle bell. The ornaments are different every year following the theme of the *Twelve Days of Christmas* Christmas carol.

"This year the ornament is eight maids a-milking," says Lowry.

Lowry travels around the college by way of wheelchair spreading good will and cheer to every one.

"I was named the Goodwill Ambassador for the college by Dan Patterson," says Lowry.

His knack for poetry and memorization is just as inspirational as his caring, unselfish ways.

"I don't really have a favorite poem or poet. I just like memorizing them and reciting them to people," says Lowry.

Lowry says he loves being a student. Lowry is still taking classes and says he hopes to take French as a Second Language next term.

"I know pretty much everyone who works here at the college, but I wish I had started 10 years earlier when the college opened," he says.

Lowry says one of his favourite times volunteering was when he was found in contempt of the United Way court and put in jail on Oct. 16, 1998, at the Seaway Mall.

"I bought bread and gave it to Sharon Svob, campaign manager and marketing director for the United Way, to give to all the prisoners for their food and water meal," says Lowry.

"I love people and want to help in every way I can," says Lowry.

Lowry is originally from Simcoe, Ont. His stepmother still resides there. He has a sister who is a nurse in Montreal, Que,. and another who lives in Las Vegas, Nev., with her family of four.

Tanguay Place, where Lowry lives, is a residence that houses 12 people with physical disabilities.

Lowry has devoted his life to giving and helping those in need.

"The only time I'm really happy lately is when I am helping others or fund-raising. I'd rather give than receive," says Lowry.

Leon Lowry relaxes at Niagara College After Hours' lounge.

Photo by Noelle Stapinsky

President hires assistant

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

The weight of the world is on his shoulders — or at least a small portion of it.

When passing through the president's office, there's a small office in the far left corner. This is the new home of Darrell Neufeld. On Oct. 5, 1998, Neufeld filled the position of executive assistant to the president.

This was a new position created by Dan Patterson, college president, to help him with his daily duties.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake native brings to the college extensive experience in communications and public administration. Neufeld graduated from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto in 1984 with a Bachelor of Applied Arts degree in Radio and Television Arts.

After graduating, Neufeld starting working in television in Dauphin, Man. "Going to a small town like that has a lot of advantages and benefits . . . you get to learn everything."

Neufeld worked hard at his positions and climbed the ladder "very quickly."

Neufeld then moved to Yorkton, Sask., to work for another television station covering sports, weather, anchoring and reporting.

"You do it all."

Seven months later, Neufeld found himself on the move again, this time as an anchor to a mid-sized market in Winnipeg, Alta.

'The college system is one of the most exciting things right now,' — Darrell Neufeld

DARRELL NEUFELD

After his career in broadcast journalism, Neufeld went into political communications and worked for the leader of the opposition in Manitoba as the Director of Communication for five years.

Neufeld then came to Ontario to work as communications manager at Queen's Park in Toronto for the leader of the opposition. His duties included a number of things such as media relations, helping in the production of a cable television show, and a lot of writing. During the last campaign, Newfeld was responsible for all media releases.

Before coming to Niagara College, Neufeld was the Senior Consultant with OEB International, a public relations firm in St. Catharines, where he worked with a variety of public and private sector organizations.

Neufeld was offered the position at the college after meeting with Patterson and discussing the "exciting things" that are going on at the college.

"With my communications and political background, it seemed to be the skills that Patterson was looking for with this particular position."

Neufeld's primary duties are assisting the president with his day-to-day operations, and managing a variety of special projects and activities.

"The college system is one of the most exciting things right now . . . the nature and diversity of the work is exciting and challenging."

This term, Neufeld is teaching Public Relations Principles in the Public Relations (Post-Graduate) program.

When Neufeld isn't busy trying to remember the names of all the new people he is meeting, he enjoys playing hockey and spending time with his family. He has a passion for photography.

College recognized for its work by Ontario tourism industry

MARTHA CASSON

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Niagara College has been recognized for its position in Ontario's tourism industry.

Martha Casson, Niagara College's vice-president Enterprise and Service Development, has been appointed to the Ontario Tourism Education Council (OTEC).

"Niagara College is very pleased that OTEC has recognized us as a serious and significant trainer for the hospitality and tourism industry in the province of Ontario," said Casson.

OTEC is a Toronto-based organization with parallel organizations across Canada, she said, adding they belong to a national association of hospitality education groups.

The council was fully government supported at one time but it now has a mandate to become self-sufficient, she said.

OTEC has developed a series of training programs for the hospitality and tourism industry.

These are the four main programs:

- Ontario Superhost program
- Service Excellence program
- Team Excellence program
- Managing Service Excellence program.

The council designs and provides the curriculum, trains the instructors and provides the materials needed, she said.

"What they've set themselves to do as a mandate is to establish some provincial standards for tourism support in the province of Ontario."

Casson said the council provides an understanding of the value of tourism to the province.

OTEC gives assistance to community colleges, businesses and industry, she said.

"It sees itself as a partner with educational institutions, as a partner with hotel and restaurant associations and as a partner with chambers of commerce."

Casson is the sole representative from a community college on the board.

She said they have had college representation in the past and decided they'd like representation from one "clearly committed to a centre of excellence for hospitality and tourism."

Casson said her portfolio with the college is to reach out to the community, Niagara Region, Ontario, Canada and the world, so depending on the organization they want to create, these partnerships put the college in a position to be influential.

"It's a really nice balance for us."

Editorial

Niagara News

The **Niagara News** is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211/ 688-1380/ 384-9760/ 382-2383/ FAX (905) 736-6005.

Editor: Aaron Beaudoin, **Associate Editor:** Jennifer Moir, **Assistant Editor:** Jeff Bolan, **Publisher:** Leo Tiberi, director Communications and Information Technology, **Managing Editor:** Phyllis Barnatt, co-ordinator Journalism-Print program, **Associate Managing Editor:** Gary Erb, instructor Journalism-Print program, **Advertising Managers:** Ron Crowley, Ron Tufts advertising instructors, **Advertising-Account Manager:** VBS Advertising, Ron Crowley, **Advertising Design:** Tracy Jay; **Photography Consultant:** Jhim Burwell, photography instructor, Photography Editor: Sean Coffey; **Photography Crew:** Film Processing: Stacey Smith, Tiffany Herron, Mun-Hee Shin; Contact Sheets: Lee Whitehead, Noelle Stapinsky, Rosemary Bartlett; Scanning Crew: Larissa Kondusky, Dave Olsen, Jodi Gierling.

Drunk driving deadly

Drinking and driving can have a permanent result after a temporary pleasure.

Journalists are first-hand observers of life's mistakes.

All too often it's the end result we report rather than educating people before the error is made.

With Christmas less than one month away, the number of traffic accidents resulting from impaired driving is expected to be higher than during any other holiday.

It's imperative we do everything possible to prevent friends, loved ones and ourselves from getting behind the wheel when intoxicated.

The Niagara College Student Administrative Council has designated Nov. 30 to Dec. 4 as Alcohol Awareness Week.

Activities include information sessions and displays. The few seconds and minutes you take to visit them may be just enough to save a life, perhaps yours.

We can all do our part this season, and all year, to stop drinking and driving. The saying is true: Friends don't let friends drive drunk.

Aaron Beaudoin

Abortion controversy continues

Doctors who perform abortions are being murdered by those who believe an abortion kills an unborn child.

Hypocrites.

Get off your soapboxes for one minute and think. Why do women have abortions?

Women have abortions for several reasons. Many are not ready to have a child because they aren't mature enough, or prepared, for that responsiblity. After all, many of them had unprotected sex.

Others have abortions because they're afraid of what people will do, or think, if they found out they were pregnant.

Why bring a baby into the world when it's unwanted?

Instead, gather your forces and help educate the young about the responsibilties of having sex and children. Teach them about safe sex, love and commitment. Tell them how much time, money and effort is needed to bring up a happy and healthy baby.

Be honest with them.

Abortions may be immoral and unethical, but what's more relevant is that they are legal. Murder is not.

Jennifer Moir

Media should be fair reporting on Kosovo

By SANJA NOVAKOVIC
Staff Writer

An explosion of anger overwhelms me when I read articles in which the writers equate the term "terrorists" with the Serbs.

Every educated person knows or should know history is a significant part of every nation. Kosovo is Serbian history.

The majority of the population in Kosovo, which is an old centre of Serbian culture, was Serbian. After the Second World War, many Albanians emigrated to Kosovo because they were poor and hungry in Albania. After the Second World War, Josip Broz Tito, the president of Yugoslavia, gave autonomy to Kosovo to break Serbian unity.

When he was asked to give autonomy to Krajina, where the majority of population were Serbian, he refused. Albanians, who now are a majority population in Kosovo, are seeking independence and they have world support.

After Yugoslavia started to fall apart, the Serbian government took the Kosovo autonomy away in name, but all rights stayed the same.

During that period, organized groups of Albanian terrorists attacked Serbian civilians and pushed them to move away from Kosovo. They broke their windows, threatened them, and raped Serbian women just to make them leave. Many Serbs moved away because of their fear.

The main aim of Albanians was to get independence from Serbia, take the Serbian land and unite with Albania, the original country where they came from.

Without Serbia, Kosovo will look like a body without a heart.

My theory about war is that war isn't a game about winners and losers. Both sides are losers because people's lives are involved.

I can't understand how some people can be in favour of bringing a military force not just against Yugoslavia but against anybody, and to criticize a decision to avoid the action.

It's impossible for the military strikes to leave no civilian victims behind it, so just imagine those victims are your mother, father, sister or brother.

Reporters who are supposed to be objective and fair are writing one-sided stories. If those writers took the right to name Serbs as terrorists, I'm taking a right to name them unprofessional reporters.

Have you ever heard about the massacre on Serbian civilians on Kosovo in August 1998, involving children and women, and all the other crimes committed by Albanians?

Of course you haven't, because the other side of the story is well hidden from you in order to support different opinion.

If you haven't been in Yugoslavia and haven't had a chance to hear both sides of the story to judge for yourself, at least have it on your mind that the other side of the story exists.

Just think twice.

Your letters to us are welcome

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submission is the following:

1. All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication.
2. Each letter must include the writer's name. Students should include a college identification number and program of study.
3. All letters must be signed and include a day and evening phone number for verification use only.

All letters can be mailed or brought to the newsroom, Rm. S212, Simcoe Building, Welland campus.

Santa needs your help

The Niagara College Foundation, the college's money-raising arm, will sponsor a float in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Santa Claus parade on Saturday, Dec. 12.

Faculty, students and children are welcome to participate in the parade. If interested, contact Liz Palmieri, development associate for the foundation, by telephoning 905-988-5211.

The college will use the Niagara-on-the-Lake Shuttle Bus, which holds about 40 people.

The parade begins at 11 a.m.

Viewpoints

Money not everything in education world

By JEFF BOLAN
Staff Writer

To some people, money is everything.

When there is a problem in society, throw money at it and the problem will disappear.

When $1-million won't cure the disease, $10 million will.

A perfect example is the ongoing teachers' strike.

When an individual decides to pursue a career as a teacher, certain things should be understood about the position. As with all of us in society, our jobs don't always fulfil our desires and expectations, but we do what we have to do to get the job done.

In my mind, a teacher's job doesn't end when the final bell rings but continues to include marking the students' work, preparing for the next day's classes and taking part in any extra-curricular activities which that teacher enjoys.

The time a teacher spends in front of the classroom should be only part of the day. To suggest otherwise is ludicrous.

What students need isn't money. It's an education.

Now the Harris government is starting to eliminate waste within the education system and the teachers have taken it personally. They see every dollar taken out of the system as a dollar taken out of their pockets.

This is absurd. The money taken out of the system is money spent on non-essential services.

Private-sector industries are constantly finetuning their production and services, making everything more efficient.

The only purpose of the education system is to provide a quality and professional education to students. It is society's duty and responsibility to ensure that students get the best education possible. Part of ensuring a quality education is providing it efficiently.

Students don't learn more because they have large amounts of money thrown at them in the form of higher teacher wages, newer text books or fancy desktop computers.

Whatever happened to learning reading, writing and arithmetic? A little history and geography thrown in wouldn't hurt either.

What students need isn't money. It's an education.

One way or another, parents manage to teach their children many things without the aid of millions of dollars and fancy lesson plans.

Why can't our teachers follow suit?

Sadly, most marriages do not last forever

By MARNI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

These days "forever" means until i need a change.

Let's face it. Marriages just don't work. So why do we feel the need to stand before God, our family and friends and profess our undying love and commitment to each other?

Back in our grandparents' day, people needed to get married because they were only half people and they needed another half person to make a whole.

Think about it. Back then, women were expected to stay home, raise the children, cook and clean. They needed a man to bring home the money and do the man jobs, like take out the trash and cut the grass.

Likewise, a man needed a woman to have his children, raise them and have dinner on the table after a hard day's work.

We don't need each other anymore

Back then, they had to stay together no matter what. If a man beat his wife she dealt with it. Divorce was not an option. I'm sure divorce happened, but generally speaking a married couple stuck together even if he was having an affair.

These days if you don't like the way your wife chews her food, you can divorce her.

We're now whole people, independent of each other and two wholes don't function as nicely together or for as long because the need has been eliminated.

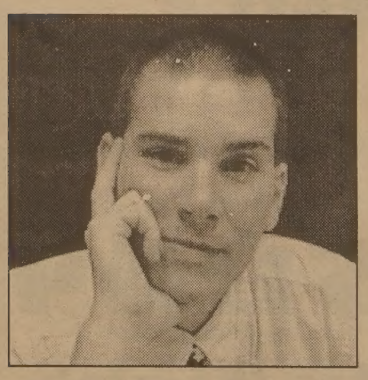
As a girl I was taught that if I don't like the way a man treats me I don't have to take it. Why then would I want to commit myself to a person for life when I don't know if he's standing at the altar checking out my bridesmaid?

Trust him, right? I could, but how many people do you think get married thinking they're going to cheat on each other five years down the road? My guess is not too many, but that cheating happens every day.

You don't know what's going to happen in the future and unless you're prepared to stay with this person if he cheats, lies, hits or anything else, don't say "till death do us part." Instead say "OK, this could be fun for a few years, but I reserve the right to leave if . . ."

Let's stop fooling ourselves. Times have changed, people have changed and it's time for traditions like marriage to change too.

Parents can't force their children but only guide them



By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer

I remember it as though it was yesterday.

After eight months of standing by helplessly while someone I adore endures the physical changes of her pregnancy, it was finally over.

With one small cry, a new life began. A life we created.

He had the bluest eyes and the smallest hands but his presence was overwhelming.

I remember my fear of holding him. He was such a delicate blanket-wrapped creature with a wristband identifying Baby Boy Beaudoin.

He was actually mine.

The bond created the first time he held my finger will be forever etched in my mind.

It has been a little more than four years since my son was born.

Every day a new milestone is set. Every day the feeling of growing apart builds more strongly.

Soon he will be in school where new friends will challenge the place of parents and new dangers must be faced.

Time moves quickly. My hold on him is slipping.

I must realize, however, he will grow older. Soon his need for me in his life will lessen.

I don't now whether it's selfishness or fear of his being hurt that bothers me more, but I do know I'm scared.

What is in store for him in his future? Will he make the right decisions? These are questions I must let him answer on his own when the time comes.

For now though, I can only guide him in the right direction and show him the way to get there.

As all parents do.

Stockpiled nuclear biological chemical weapons dangerous

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Hey Canada, wake up and look at the world around you.

Is it just me or do we Canadians seem not to care too much about what goes on in the world around us?

Don't any of you find what is happening in Russia just a little unnerving?

I must admit I too am guilty of falling into the post-Cold War placidity of our world, thinking that with the end of the Cold War there was nothing left to fear.

I was wrong.

The crisis may be over, but the reason for it is still very much present.

Think about it. Russia, or the former Soviet Union, possessed tens of thousands of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. In fact, some argue their stockpile is more than double that of the United States'.

Where did these weapons go when communism collapsed? They didn't just disappear. They are still there sitting in warehouses or simply stacked in the middle of an open field.

To understand the danger of this you must first realize that when Russia was under communist rule the people were kept in check by the state, so there was no need for the elaborate security measures we see in the U.S.

The crisis may be over but the reason for it is still very much present

However, with this tight control gone there is no longer any viable internal security left.

What does all this mean to you?

It means these thousands of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons are pretty much free for the taking or could be bought by a terrorist with a simple gold card.

Sounds unreal, doesn't it?

The economic crisis in Russia means millions of Russians are without an income. This includes some of their former scientists and top-ranking military officers.

What better way to earn a buck than to sell a few dusty nukes or a couple viles of Anthrax spores?

Russia may no longer pose a threat, but its weapons still do.

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Matters of the Heart

Give your heart a break, butt out

By LARISSA KONDUSKY
Staff Writer

THOROLD — One puff is all it takes.

It speeds up the heart, causes your blood pressure to rise, disturbs the air and blood flow to your lungs and causes the temperature in the feet and fingers to drop.

It's cigarette smoking and it can kill.

According to the Lung Association, smoking accounted for more than 16,000 deaths in Ontario in 1991.

Smoking is the major cause of emphysema, lung cancer, heart disease and chronic bronchitis.

The association says nicotine is a drug that has "powerful effects" on the brain.

Nicotine causes an increase in the rate of breathing and in the heart rate. It also increases the tendency of the blood to clot and causes an increased need for oxygen, making the heart work harder.

Depending on the amount of nicotine inhaled, it can act as a sedative or a stimulant.

Not only does smoking affect the smoker, but it affects the people around the smoker.

"Smoking and second-hand smoke contribute to lung disease," says Sharon Lottridge, executive director of the Lung Association Niagara Region.

One in five people in Ontario has lung disease.

Lung disease is often referred to as "the silent killer" because it is an "invisible disease," says Lottridge, adding people don't worry much about it.

"Let's face it — lung disease isn't as dramatic as a heart attack. It just doesn't have a visible impact."

Smoking can cause cancer of the mouth and tongue, which "people often overlook."

Sidestream smoke (the smoke burning from the end) contains higher amounts of cancer-causing chemicals. It contains twice as much tar and nicotine and five times more carbon monoxide than mainstream smoke (the smoke inhaled by the smoker).

When carbon monoxide is inhaled into the body, it creates a compound called carboxyhemoglobin. As the compound increases, the cells in the body work harder for oxygen.

Second-hand smoke is estimated to be the cause of 300 cancer deaths each year in Canada, according to statistics from the Lung Association.

However, there is good news. "It's never too late to quit," says Lottridge.

Don't get discouraged, she says.

"A lot of people try to quit three or four times" before they succeed.

Smokers should visit their family doctor and talk about quitting and see if any aids are available to help with the process.

"Some people need to take a scale-down approach" while others quit "cold turkey," Lottridge says.

"Different approaches work for different people."

There are benefits of quitting.

"Certainly if somebody stops smoking they reduce their risks."

She says those who quit smoking feel better, have fewer wrinkles and are able to taste and smell better.

Also, the risk of cancer, heart disease, chronic bronchitis and emphysema will be lowered.

When people quit smoking there are often withdrawal symptoms, such as craving for tobacco, tremors, change in appetite, headaches and lightheadedness.

"Nicotine is usually cleared from the body a few days after stopping smoking," but the symptoms can last longer, according to information from the association.

"When people smoke there is a physical addiction, but there is also a psychological addiction as well," says Lottridge.

Never too late to quit

The following are facts about smoking from the Lung Association.

- In 1991, smoking was estimated to be responsible for 45,064 deaths.
- Tobacco kills nine times as many Canadians prematurely than suicide, traffic accidents, HIV/AIDS and homicide combined.
- Cigarette smoking is the single most important cause of preventable illness and premature death in Canada.
- Tobacco is the only legal product that kills when used exactly as intended.
- There are 30 chemicals in tobacco smoke that cause cancer.
- In 1994, 24 per cent of youths aged 15 to 19 were smokers.
- Almost half of young persons aged 10 to 19 (46 per cent) have at least one parent who smokes.
- Female smokers reach menopause earlier and consequently have an increased risk of osteoporosis.
- Female smokers who use oral contraceptives have a 10-fold increased risk of a heart attack.
- Pregnant women who smoke increase their risk of miscarriage, stillbirth and neonatal death by 25 to 35 per cent.
- Smokers use the health care system up to 50 per cent more than non-smokers.
- Non-smokers have the right to breathe clean air free from harmful and irritating tobacco smoke. This right overrules the right to smoke when the two conflict, according to the Lung Association.

Seal of approval for Christmas holiday

By LARISSA KONDUSKY
Staff Writer

THOROLD — Just lick it.

It's that time of year when the Lung Association begins its annual Christmas Seal campaign.

This year the association will have a Dress Down Day to help support the campaign on Friday, Nov. 20.

The event, called "Dress Easy to Breathe Easy Day Niagara Region Challenge," is another way for the association to raise money.

Sharon Lottridge, executive director for the Lung Association Niagara Region, says the association gets most of its money through a direct mail campaign, but "people don't send as many cards," forcing it to look for other ways to create dollars.

The Christmas Seal campaign began in October and ends Jan. 31.

The Christmas Seals are sent to most homes in the Niagara Region.

The association is one of the oldest non-profit organizations in Canada. It began in the early 1900s to control tuberculosis.

Lottridge says the association decided to expand to deal with all lung disease.

"If you have to think about breathing or have trouble breathing, something is wrong. Until you really experience it, you don't realize how illuminating it (not breathing) can be."

Participating in the event are Welland Mayor Dick Reuter, Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey, St. Catharines Mayor Tim Rigby, West Lincoln Mayor Lorne Nelson and Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop.

To participate in the Dress Down Day, call the Lung Association at 227-8800 and explain you are interested in helping. You'll have to fill out a form and remember to "Dress Easy to Breathe Easy" on Nov. 20.

Make an appointment, doctors are in to deal with physical, emotional concern

By SANJA NOVAKOVIC
Staff Writer

If you need a pregnancy test, have a headache, need any other health advice, or need to see a medical doctor, the Health Centre at the Niagara College's Welland campus is the place.

Students can come to the Health Centre to have their examinations and get a prescription, but an appointment is needed, said Carolyn Hurst, college nurse.

The charge for a pregnancy test is $5.

Hurst said the the Health Centre is providing birth control counselling.

She said after "we determine a pregnancy, we'll give you advice on whatever is healthier for you to do, but you have to make a decision."

"It's a personal choice as far as we are concerned, and whatever you decide, we'll support your decision.

Niagara College students can purchase birth control pills from the Welland Public Health Centre for $8 a pack instead of $20 in a pharmacy. The Public Health Centre, on King Street, is open weekdays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

"We are really excited about having a doctor on campus," said Hurst.

Dr. Valerie Jaeger is working at the Welland campus Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., and Dr. Janet Warren at the Glendale campus, in Niagara-on-the-Lake Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

If students are having emotional problems and need help, the Health Centre is also the right place to go.

Hurst said if students are sick and can't get home, Lundy 20 is a place to come for help.

For a time when students are stressed or need a place to settle down "we have a headache room," she said.

If students have a headache, they are invited to come to Health Centre and they will be given medicine, Hurst said. "The medicine may save you from going home and losing a class time."

"We have immediate help for any emergency on campus," said Hurst.

Students can get help immediately by dialing zero and asking the switchboard operator to locate a nurse.

Health services have been at the college since the school first opened and are covered by the student fee.

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'Tis the Month Before Christmas...

Photography by
Jeff Bolan
Leah Farnan
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SAC

Come help out others

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Now you can rent a friend and do it for charity.

Matt Wright, 22, a first-year Law and Security Administration program student, had the idea to auction off people to raise money for charity.

Michelle Vandyke, a Legal Assistant program student, and Ken Livingston, a General Arts and Science program student, are working with Wright to organize the event.

It is planned for 2:30 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Welland campus After Hours pub.

Two charities, Women's Place in Welland and the Children's Wish Fund, will receive proceeds from the event.

Niagara College's Student Administrative Council chose the Children's Wish Fund and "a patron from this bar (the After Hours Pub)" chose Women's Place, says Wright.

Women's Place takes in women from abusive homes so they can try to get back on their feet.

There will be a $10 minimum for each bid and only Niagara College students are allowed to participate.

Wright says there is no exact dollar total they're aiming for, but they're hoping for at least $3,000. They haven't approached any other companies or individuals to help with the funding but are planning to, he says.

Wright says they aren't holding the event for academic marks. The idea "just came out of the blue."

$250 can stretch far

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

With $250 and an interested group of people, you can host a fashion show, have guest speakers or go on trips.

You can meet regularly as do the Christian Fellowship and Art and Design clubs, play games with the Gaming Club, invite public speakers as the Construction Club does, or pull together and organize a multicultural fashion show the way the Change the Future Club did last year.

Organizing a club at Niagara College is easier than Christmas shopping, easier than trying to decide between Pepsi and Coke and much more enjoyable than studying for an exam.

To launch a club ask for a start-up kit from Cindy Blanchard, office manager of the Student Administrative Council (SAC), at the Welland campus SAC office and write a summary of plans and goals along with a budget.

If SAC approves your club, you are free to put up posters, arrange meetings, and you'll receive $250 a term for club-related fees.

SAC asks that to help support the club financially each member pay a $2 to $5 membership fee.

Food for Friends

Steve Charron, 28, of Port Colborne, a first-year Journalism-Print program student, gets into the holiday spirit by donating food to the Niagara College Students in Need box.

Photo by Leah Farnan

Plan for student's health care in action

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Student health plans may be offered next September at Niagara College.

Michael Berry, Student Administrative Council (SAC) vice-president of campus events at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, says the proposed mandatory fee will be $55 for every student.

However, those who have health care coverage through someone else will have their $55 refunded.

"A lot of students who don't have the health care won't go to the doctor because they can't afford it," says Berry, adding, "I think it's a great thing to offer to students."

ACL and Associates Ltd. is the company chosen to provide coverage.

The plan will cover 80 per cent of the cost of prescription drugs up to $5,000 and 100 per cent of basic preventative dental coverage (polishing, cleaning examination and consultation including X-rays and diagnostics). It covers many other things with a medical referral such as chiropractor, crutches and wheelchair rentals.

Nurses from the Welland campus and Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake are offering their assistance to inform students about the plan.

Berry says to get the plan approved, SAC must let students know about it and then have a student referendum.

Anyone looking for more information can contact the Glendale SAC at ext. 4224.

New logo for all three campuses as collective

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Raising Niagara College's Student Administrative Councils' profile will cost up to $15,000.

The search is also on for a new logo to help unify the college's three campuses.

The promotional items range from hospital pants to pencils. The wide range of items will be used as prizes for SAC-sponsored events.

At a recent all-campus SAC meeting, Michael Berry, SAC vice-president of campus events, at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Rachel Salomons, SAC president of the Maid of Mist in Niagara Falls, who organized the items, reviewed the various items and costs looking for other members' reactions.

Members eventually chose two different designs of "SAC" to be used on the promotional items.

Big week approaching for alcohol awareness

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

Alcohol Awareness is an important issue with Niagara College's Student Administrative Council (SAC).

Aynsley Warden, vice-president of campus affairs, and Brian Durocher, student representative, are in charge of Alcohol Awareness Week Nov. 30 to Dec. 4, when various activities relating to responsible drinking are slated.

A Niagara Regional Police Service officer is coming to the college's Welland campus on Wednesday, Dec. 2. He will be in the main lobby of the Simcoe building, by the Mr. Sub cart. There will be a display and pamphlets for whoever is interested in knowing the facts on drinking and driving.

The college's health nurse is running a booth on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to provide information on what drinking does to your body and your health.

SAC is having its booths on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with a questionnaire and an Internet profile to see how much you spend on alcohol and how high your chances are of becoming an alcoholic.

Also during the week, a wrecked car and tombstones will be placed outside the SAC building for everyone to see what drinking and driving can do.

There will be a memorial tree in the lounge for anyone who wants to put up memories they've had with alcohol and to commemorate anyone lost to drinking and driving.

On Thursday's Pub Night, SAC will be hosting a game of Jeopardy in which participants will battle using their knowledge of alcohol-related trivia. First, second, and third prizes will be given out.

A mocktail contest is planned. The mocktail is a non-alcoholic drink. People can make their own recipes and submit them to SAC by Nov. 26; the best one wins.

The contest will be held at noon on Tuesday at After Hours. SAC is considering buying the recipes and having them sold at the pub on Thursday. It has arranged a flat rate cost for taxi service for those who do decide to drink alcoholic beverages.

During the week, SAC is holding contests and games at the pub. In the lounge they're playing a video on impaired driving for students to show what drinking and driving can do to families and friends.

SAC President Jamie Ebsary says, "The Alcohol Awareness Week is to alert people to the facts of drinking and to teach them responsible drinking."

Get on-line with SAC it's easy, available to all

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

It's a wired world.

Melissa Dell, a student representative for Niagara College's Student Administrative Council (SAC), is starting an e-mail distribution list to keep students posted on college events.

Dell, a second-year student in the Human Relations program, says students can join the distribution list by leaving their name and e-mail address at the SAC office, at saconline@niagarac.on.ca, or with their student program representative.

The goal of SAC being online is to "at least double attendance at SAC events," says Dell.

The monthly e-mails will include "anything they (students) need to know," including upcoming events, important decisions by SAC, interest polls, pub events and athletics.

Dell says next year she wants to set up a Web page for SAC, but this year she doesn't have time.

Dell says she is going to try to check the e-mail every day and respond to any questions students may have.

Phantom of the Opera trip

Students from the English as a Second Language program attended a production of Phantom of the Opera in Toronto on Nov. 19.

Photo by Mun-Hee Shin

Entertainment

Having a ball through Continuing Education

Ballroom dancing classes available for couples young and old

By JOSEPH MORRIS
Staff Writer

Learning to ballroom dance can put rhythm in your step and in your relationship, so grab your date and your dancing shoes and join in the fun in the cafeteria at Niagara College's Welland campus.

Karen Wallis, of St. Catharines, has been teaching dance to the young and old for more than 20 years.

She says it thrills her to watch couples who enter with little or no dance experience glide across the dance floor after a few lessons.

The night is filled with smiling couples and the air is filled with music reminiscent of the Glenn Miller era's Big Band sound.

Wallis's Continuing Education course, Ballroom Basics, is the first of two courses that teaches the essentials of ballroom dancing and introduces students to styles such as swing and the fox trot.

Part two of the course, Latin Flavour, will feature dances such as the rumba, the samba and the tango.

Wallis says swing has enjoyed a rise in popularity with the appearance of the Gap's Khakis Swing commercials. "Now everyone wants to learn how to swing," she adds.

This term the course has been so popular it's being run twice on Tuesday nights. However, because of Wallis's teaching commitments in St. Catharines, the courses will be moved to the new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake for the January 1999 session.

"This is not a permanent move, and I do not want it to be a move that will scare people off from coming out to the classes," she says.

"We are looking into bringing ballroom dancing back to the Welland campus for the spring."

The couples' reasons for coming out to learn ballroom dancing vary. Some are polishing their steps in preparation for upcoming weddings, while others have had a long-term interest in dancing but say they never had the opportunity to pursue their dreams of becoming accomplished dancers.

Some couples are local students, but others travel each Tuesday night from places such as Stoney Creek, Ont.. and even farther.

Steve and Cathy Foxcroft, of Lewiston, N.Y., say they were looking for a course they could take with friends who lived in the Niagara Region.

"We found it here," says Steve. "It's been fun. Sometimes it's frustrating, but you work at it. You have to put some effort into it. It's great for couples and a great night out."

He says many of their friends react with skepticism upon first hearing the couple is taking ballroom dancing lessons, but that's often followed by an "instant respect" for their work and a murmuring of "I wish we could do that."

"She's a great teacher. We've really enjoyed it," adds Steve.

Wayne and Kay Brown, of Wainfleet, are one of the couples new to ballroom dancing who say they came out to prepare for their daughter's wedding.

"I've always been interested but been a klutz," says Wayne. "My wife had the benefit of being taught by a friend years ago. I never had that benefit."

Wallis says it's more than just learning to dance. She says learning to dance nurtures the relationship and teaches them how to relate to each another as a couple. It builds a romantic mood for young and mature couples. "How many couples these days are in each other's arms dancing for 1 1/2 hours?"

In addition to teaching ballroom dancing at Niagara College, Wallis teaches ballet at the Fascination Dance Studio, in Thorold, and classes in aerobics.

"This course makes dancers out of non-dancers," says Wallis. "No one is born with two left feet. Even if they can't walk, it doesn't matter. I've taught the physically challenged in my class. All it takes is rhythm and a desire to move to look graceful even without feet."

Wallis says her sole purpose is to create an atmosphere of non-intimidation for couples to dance in. "My whole life is dancing. I've been teaching for 23 years, and I love every minute of it," she says.

Waying and Kay Brown of Wainfleet are one of the couples new to ballroom dancing who say they came out to prepare for their daughter's wedding.

Photo by Joseph Morris

Double threat at Niagara

By STACEY SCHMITT
Staff Writer

Great things come in twos.

The After Hours Pub at Niagara College's Welland campus was witness to the brilliance of one of Winnipeg's finest bands, Duotang, on Oct. 15.

Duotang, consisting of Rod Slaughter on bass/vocal, and Sean Allum on drums, gave the small but appreciative crowd an amazing show.

Duotang played for more than an hour with songs taken from their seven-inch record **The Message**, and their two CDs **Smash The Ships And Raise The Beams** and **The Cons And The Pros**. The latter is their newest collection of power-pop songs.

Duotang played live, but in some cases, sounded better than their CDs.

The small confines of After Hours made for a very intimate setting. It seemed as if Duotang and the crowd were just a bunch of old friends hanging out and listening to old records.

The closeness of the band and audience heightened more when a member of the audience got onto the stage to put Allum's cymbal back on after it fell off.

Halfway through the set Duotang brought their friend Angus Kirkpatrick on stage to play bass. Kirkpatrick is a member of fellow Winnipeg band Grand Theft Canoe.

Two basses and a drum kit? It was very unorthodox, I know, but three guys on stage never sounded so tight.

The three musicians went on to play many more selections from the Duotang catalogue, and even threw in an amazing cover version of *Tame* by The Pixies.

It was a shame that Duotang had to stop playing, but I certainly will go to see them live in the future as will many of those in attendance that day.

Our Christmas edition will be published Dec. 11

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Pump Up the Volume

Metallica revisits past with new double disk

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Every cover song Metallica has ever done is now on one disk — make that two.

The band released **Garage Inc.**, a two-CD package featuring the band's favourite cover tunes, on Nov. 24. Every song the band has covered, from early B-sides to concert tunes and even a few the band has never performed before, are in the package.

Songs on the special-limited CDs, **Garage Days Revisited** and **Garage Days Re-revisited**, are also on the CDs.

Last Caress, originally performed by The Misfits and *Am I Evil*, originally performed by Diamond Head, two of Metallica's most popular concert-performed cover songs, are on the CD.

Also included are Queen's *Stone Cold Crazy* and Diamond Head's *Helpless*.

The CD's first single is *Turn the Page*, originally written and performed by Bob Seger. It has already climbed steadily up the music charts, hitting No. 1 on many radio station countdowns.

Seger's creation has been Metallicized by the band, to give it a heavy metal feel. Lead singer James Hetfield's vocals are incredible. He combines a soft, melodramatic tone with his usual "Kill 'em all"-type vocals. Guitarist Kirk Hammett and bassist Jason Newsted combine their talents to create an unforgettable melody to accommodate Hetfield's words.

Drummer Lars Ulrich is nothing short of magnificent. He continues to prove he is the best drummer in the history of music. Even on a soft song like *Turn the Page*, his unbelievable control over his drum kit is something simply awesome.

Ulrich says the reason the band decided to put out a cover album is that they wanted to.

Metallica has accomplished much in almost 20 years of performing. In **Garage Inc.**, they pay tribute to the bands who influenced them in their musical pursuits.

U2's best on one CD

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

U2's **The Best of 1980-1990** flies.

This album, featuring such songs as *I Will Follow, Sunday Bloody Sunday, I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For* and *All I Want Is You*, along with a host of other hits, perfectly depicts 10 years in U2's career.

Never before has a best-of album painted the picture of one decade's music so succinctly.

The album gives listeners U2's songs of the '80s they loved then and now, and the addition of *Sweetest Thing* is a wonderful treat.

The album was released for a limited time on Nov. 3 with the inclusion of an extra CD containing U2's B-Sides from the '80s. It was re-released Nov. 10, but this time didn't include the B-Sides.

If you didn't buy the album the first time, you missed out on a wonderful bonus CD, but the album is more than worth your money by itself.

It's perfect for hardcore U2 fans who'd love to have U2's biggest hits on one album and want a copy of *Sweetest Thing*.

It's also suited to people who are simply fond of U2, offering their most popular songs without having to buy each individual album.

Manson showcases new style

By CHARLIE ASHBURY
Staff Writer

The diabolical Marilyn Manson returns with yet another new look and a new sound.

Marilyn Manson is again invading homes and scaring parents with his latest effort, **Mechanical Animals.**

At first glance at the deranged cover, it would seem Manson is up to his old tricks, but in fact he's got a whole bag of new ones. Manson has altered his appearance and his sound, this time going for a more funk-induced metal sound, instead of industrial metal.

One thing that remains is the band's ability to write great songs. The first single, *The Dope Show*, is a catchy rock anthem that's bound to get you singing with its shout-along chorus. *I don't like the drugs (but the drugs like me)* is a funky bit of Manson mastery. This song is one of the high points of the album and should hit home with Manson fans.

Great Big White World is an eerie tune that showcases the band's new sound and has the potential to be a single. In fact there are quite a few songs on **Mechanical Animals** that could be assaulting the charts. The title track with its chilling break illustrates this band's diversity and shows that behind all the hype and hoopla Marilyn Manson has some real talent and will be around for quite some time.

I was initially disappointed with the album, hoping to hear the sequel to **Antichrist Superstar**, but after a few more spins, this record grew on me and is now in constant rotation.

I'm giving it seven out of 10.

U2's best remains original something for all U2 fans

By JOSEPH ROWLING
Staff Writer

This is a very interesting CD.

That's the best way to sum up U2's **The Best Of 1980-1990 & B-Sides CD.**

To clarify for the reader, I'm going to review the **B-Sides CD**, of which there have only been 100,000 copies made.

The CD is very pop-oriented. The middle of it contains a few songs that were remakes (*Unchained Melody* and *Everlasting Love*). Later it shifts to a more religious-sounding album.

The CD is more enjoyable for a true fan who can hear resemblances to other songs. However, this doesn't mean an average music lover wouldn't appreciate it.

The highlights of the CD are *Love Comes Tumbling, Silver And Gold, Unchained Melody, Spanish Eyes,* and *Trash, Trampoline* and *The Party Girl.*

Most of the songs are very raw and have a lot of energy. They focus more on the heart and soul of the songs and not on the crisp and clear finished product, which makes the album much like a live album that has been captured in a studio.

The best thing about the album is that it's very original, but most of U2's work is original so that really isn't a surprise.

They are songs that could be played on the radio but never will be because they are impossible to market. They are not wild enough to be on Much Music but too raw to be on any radio station.

It's a CD that maturing bands should listen to in order to gain a perspective on improving and working with ideas, and most important, to be original, a characteristic sadly lacking in music today.

Ghetto supastar on his own

By MELANIE BLAIS
Staff Writer

This hip-hop rap CD isn't for me.

Prakazrel "Pras" Michel's album **Ghetto Supastar** has an annoying beat in almost every song. The beat is slower in some, and faster in others, but it's there and somewhat hypnotizing.

I wouldn't recommend listening to this album when you are driving great distances.

I do, however, like the hit song *Ghetto Supastar* because it isn't irritating like the rest of them.

I'm not a big hip-hop or rap fan, but for those of you who are, enjoy.

What I didn't understand about this album are the first and last songs. The first is *Hallelujah* and the last, *Amazing Grace*. These songs just don't fit. The only reason they're included may be to prepare you for the CD and relax you at the end of it, if that makes any sense.

Pras says, in the CD notes, he didn't want to talk about his Ferrari or his $200,000 ring in his songs "'cause the average person can't relate to that." Looking at the CD cover, I saw the opposite. His ring, bracelet and sunglasses are sparkling. He says he didn't want to talk about it, but he shows off. What difference does it make?

Some of his so-called songs are phone interludes. The four of them throughout the CD are his voice-mail messages (40 of them) played with background music.

Some of the messages are from "pop icons" such as Natalie Cole, Elton John, Robin Leach, Jennifer Lopez, Sting, Donald Trump and many more. I don't understand the point, but maybe he just wants to show off.

I give it a five out of 10.

Our Christmas edition is Dec. 11

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Rave Reviews

Shaw Festival announces exciting 1999 playbill in wake of $11-million success

By MIKE EARWICKER
Staff Writer

If you are looking for action, adventure, drama, music and mystery then head to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1999.

Right on the heels of its $11-million success last season, the Shaw Festival has announced its line-up for the 1999 season. Thirteen productions will be running in repertory from April 9 to Oct. 31 in Shaw's three theatres.

At the Festival Theatre the hysterical comedy *You Can't Take It With You*, directed by Neil Munro, returns for a limited engagement because of popular demand last season. The flagship play for the 1999 season is Bernard Shaw's thought-provoking classic *Heartbreak House*, directed by Polish actor and director Tadeusz Bradecki from Shaw's associate theatre in Krakow, Poland. Also presented in the Festival Theatre will be Noel Coward's comedy *Easy Virtue*, directed by Christopher Newton, a play that makes light of social pretensions. *All My Sons*, by Arthur Miller, also directed by Neil Munro, is a gripping drama about guilt, responsibility, and ethics for private life and for business.

The Court House Theatre will feature four plays, including Bernard Shaw's witty take on love and marriage, *Getting Married*, directed by Jim Mezon. *S.S. Tenacity*, a wistful comedy by Charles Vildrac, will be directed by Denis Garnhum. The Court House will also feature *Uncle Vanya*, by Russian playwright Anton Chekov. Neil Munro will direct *The Madras House*, by Harley Granville Barke. This will be the sixth production in the Shaw's Granville Barker series.

The 1999 mystery, *Rebecca*, by Daphne du Maurier, is a classic suspense play adapted from her famous novel. It will be the first presented at the Royal George Theatre. *A Foggy Day*, with words and music by George and Ira Gershwin, and directed by Kelly Robinson, made its world premiere last season and will return as a result of the tremendous response it received last year. The Lunchtime Series will include *Village Wooing*, by Bernard Shaw, and the return of *Waterloo*, by Arthur Conan Doyle. The Bell Reading Series, sponsored by Bell Canada and taped live for the CBC, will include one play, *The Apollo of Bellac*, by Jean Giraudoux, and three adaptions of prose — *The Adventures of the Black Girl in Her Search for God*, by Bernard Shaw, *The Birds*, by Daphne du Maurier, and selections from the writing of legendary Canadian humourist Stephen Leacock.

Tickets go on sale to members on Dec. 9 and to the general public on Jan 18, 1999. To become a member or to find out more information, call the Shaw Festival Box Office at 1-800-511-7429.

Lovin' Spoonful

#1 New York Times BESTSELLER
Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul
101 Stories to Open the Hearts and Rekindle the Spirits of Women

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

The newest addition to the *Chicken Soup* family is heart-warming.

With stories by Oprah Winfrey, Kathie Lee Gifford and Dolly Parton, this book leaves every woman singing in her heart. It is comforting to every-day women to know that stars and singers do have the same pains and joys as they do.

The *Chicken Soup* novels are well known among readers, but *Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul* gives the female population a reason to flip the pages and feel good about being a woman.

The stories tell of women in many life situations and explain how they've learned and grown from them. Some make you cry and others make you laugh, but they all make you feel special to be a woman who has done similar things.

Topics discussed in this novel are love, marriage, motherhood and aging, among many others.

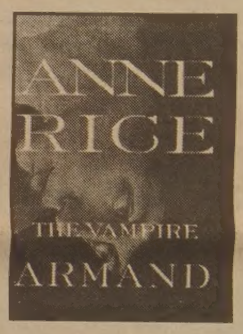
This book is advice for the future and memories of the past. It's a book you can read whenever you need some support and comfort, or a book you can read from page one to page 328 in a night. It makes no difference because the effect is the same.

The words on the pages define who we are as women. They make us feel unique, yet make us realize we share a common bond. What bonds us as women are the experiences we've gone through.

The collection of stories were gathered by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Jennifer Read Hawthorne and Marci Shimoff, who also introduce them in this book that reveals the beauty and joy of women's spirits.

It will be a heart-warming companion for anyone who reads it — at least until the next *Chicken Soup* addition arrives.

New novel welcome addition to Rice's series



By ASHLEY SMITH
Staff Writer

"They're not connoiseurs, they're just blood-drinkers," says the 500-year-old vampire, Armand, of the the many younger vampires, in Anne Rice's latest addition to the already-classic Vampire Chronicles, *The Vampire Armand*.

Rice takes readers into an artistically inclined 15th century Venice, Italy, where the art is more important than the blood. Enter a world where the author brings homosexuality into the night, and caresses you with ideologies about God and death and immortality.

The story of the vampires started long ago in *Interview with the Vampire*, where Rice took us through the pain-staking discovery of the undead world.

She revealed a world of new rules, diabolical schemes and enough sexual overtones to make your blood turn cold. Since then, readers have followed the "brat prince, Lestat de Lioncourt," through his life story, in *The Vampire Lestat*, and then onward through *The Queen of the Damned*, *The Tale of the Body Thief* and into the theological world of *Memnoch the Devil*.

Last summer's *Pandora* told us the story of an ancient vampire, Pandora, who was given the "dark gift" by Marius — who later lived in Venice and gave the "immortal kiss" to a little boy with wit and charm and cunning. That little boy was Armand, and now you can enjoy his story in *The Vampire Armand*.

Beautiful cities, wondrous possibilities, near-Shakespearan drama are used by Rice to paint a world that readers yearn to taste more of, learn more of, and inevitably will want more of.

The book is an enjoyable read and a perfect continuation of the Chronicles. This 388-page fictional biography is a good way to spend a day drinking red wine, watching the sun set and letting the night consume you.

Vampire movie not worth biting into

By JOSEPH ROWLING
Staff Writer

Just what we don't need, another vampire movie.

Vampires, directed by John Carpenter, starts with a group of vampire slayers, led by James Woods (*Casino, The Hard Way*) and Daniel Baldwin (*Harley Davidson & The Marlboro Man*), ready to wipe out a nest of vampires in an abandoned house.

Soon after they've finished annihilating all the walking dead they can handle for a day, they go back to a hotel to party it up with plenty of naked hookers. What a surprise. I didn't see that coming.

The leader of the vampires decides to come knocking on the door and wipe out every human in sight. Of course, Woods and Baldwin get away (another big surprise) with Sheryl Lee, who has been bitten by a vampire.

They spend the rest of the movie hunting down the leader using Lee, who is connected to the leader telepathically. Baldwin falls in love with Lee and Woods does a lot of swearing and makes the occasional funny joke.

The music to the movie is a whole other issue. Carpenter, (*Escape from L.A.*), decided to take on that project himself, which was a huge mistake. It ranges from corny to just plain annoying and seems to take up more of the movie than all the blood sucking and naked hookers combined.

With no interesting plot and very poor fighting scenes, this movie really doesn't have much to offer except Woods making a few good jokes. The movie is flooded with attitude and has little creativity. It just doesn't cut it in the '90s when the competition is *Blade* and *Interview With A Vampire*.

Play pits classical tunes against country croons

Cowgirls on wild romp

By MIKE EARWICKER
Staff Writer

A pregnant wife, a prude and a lesbian walk into a western saloon . . .

It sounds like the setup for a bad joke but the punchline is the premise for off-Broadway hit musical **Cowgirls.**

The three main characters, Rita (the pregnant wife), Mary Lou (the prude) and Lee (the lesbian), are the Cog Hill Trio, classically trained musicians mistaken for the Cowgirl Trio, a western band.

The girls are booked into a down-on-its-luck Kansas juke joint and are supposed to be the act to save the bar from bankruptcy. Jo, the bar's owner, discovers the girls are classical musicians and she has 24 hours to turn them from classic to country.

With the assistance of Mickey and Mo, employees of the bar who have their own flavour of country music, the Cog Hill Trio makes a smooth transition to the Cowgirl Trio. Everything is wrapped up neatly with the girls playing a sold-out show and rescuing the bar from impending doom.

The production is mounted on the stage of Artpark-at-the-Church in Lewiston, N.Y., a tiny church that has been transformed into a quaint little theatre.

The setting makes for pleasant and intimate viewing. Every inch of the stage is used. As an addition to the set, there is a flight of stairs leading to an office area in full view of the audience.

The musical, made up of an all-woman cast, is slow to start but as classic meets country the laughs start to roll. The actors never lose the energy or spirit of the characters while they play their own instruments and sing the country songs.

Rita (Jessica Coogan) plays the piano, accordion, harmonica and the bucket, Lee (Gerti Lee James) plays the cello and guitar, and Mary Lou (Jill Stephens) plays the violin, mandolin, guitar, and fiddle. The combination makes for a whimsical variety of music.

Coogan, James and Stephens anchor the musical with their energy and musical talents and are superbly matched with the musical and vocal stylings of Jo (Rhonda Wallace) playing the piano, guitar, and the banjo, Mickey (Kimberly A. Schwenzer) playing the banjo and the tambourine, and Mo (Wendy Hall) playing the autoharp, ukelele, and the bucket.

In **Cowgirls**, Chopin meets Patsy Cline and Beethoven meets Dwight Yoakam. The results are hilarious.

Saddle up, pardners, 'cause you're in for one wild romp.

Sports

College flanker crunches them in rugby games

Baptism of fire started in 1997

By ROBIN MORAIS
Staff Writer

Sheldon Johnson thrives on playing contact sports like rugby.

"I like playing the contact sports, with all of the intensity, high energy and action I experience during the game," said the 20-year-old Niagara College player.

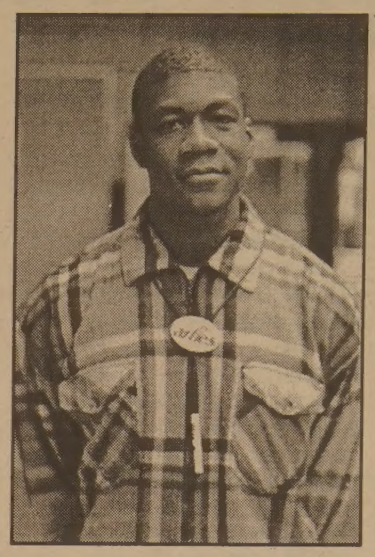
He said he plays as a flanker on the college rugby team, a position which involves a lot of running into position to apply crunching tackles on opposing players with the ball.

Johnson is a third-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program student who was born in Mississauga to West Indian parents.

He said he started playing rugby for Niagara College in 1997 when a friend of his, Corey Fraser, told him he was starting a college rugby team.

"He told me to come out and play because I'd be pretty good at it, seeing that I'd already gained some sort of experience."

Johnson said at the time, only he and a small number of players came out to play for the first year.



SHELDON JOHNSON

Johnson said he started playing the game and liked it "a great deal."

He said he believed in actually playing the sport as a means of learning to play it properly. "Just playing rugby is pretty much the best experience you'll ever get."

"At the time, we didn't have official coaches. Only Corey Fraser and Sam Osborne helped us out by giving us a basic understanding of the game."

He was selected for the college team and played exhibition games in 1977 against the St. Catharines Brock University Rugby team, Sir Sandford Fleming College team at the Lindsay campus and Barrie's Georgian College Rugby team.

Johnson said the team did not win any of their matches but they tied with Georgian College.

Despite not registering a victory, Johnson said the team played well.

"These games gave us the knowledge about competing at the standard of college rugby."

This "baptism of fire" in 1997 helped them when they took to the field again this year.

"This year, we had some players who played last year, some new players who played in high school junior teams and experienced coaches."

He said these factors made a difference at the prestigious Ontario Colleges Athletic Association Rugby Championships in Sarnia because the team finished in fourth place out of six teams.

Johnson said the team won one, lost three and drew one.

He said this was "an impressive performance" for Niagara College, which is new to competitive college rugby.

"In a few years, we will be No. 1 because I have faith in them."

The stockily built Johnson said he based his view on the core of experienced players who will still be around to build on the successes of this year.

He said rugby would become a varsity sport in Niagara College in the near future because more and people would be coming out to play the sport based on the achievement made by the college squad.

Johnson said rugby is different from North American football in a number of ways. He said rugby is more fast-paced than football and football has more one-on-one player contact and usage of safety equipment than rugby.

He said football players generally play one specific position on the field, but rugby players are allowed more on-field flexibility by playing in various positions.

Johnson said he wants to play semi-professional or professional rugby in Canada in the future.

However, he said there was not enough recognition for the sport in Canada by the media, government, business sector and the majority of sports fans.

"It's still not a popular mass spectator Canadian sport."

He said there was still no professional rugby league in the country.

He said the Canadian rugby authorities should build the popularity of the sport through effective marketing techniques. He said they could contact TSN and persuade them to show more rugby on their sports network to stimulate more Canadian interest in the sport.

"Let Canadians know that they can play rugby just as good as anyone else.

"I mean I don't expect them to beat the best teams, but I know they can hold their own."

Johnson said Canadian authorities should have exhibition games involving the national rugby against top rugby nations in the world like New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, Scotland, Wales, Australia and South Africa.

"Keep sourcing youngsters in high schools, colleges and universities to replace the older players when they retire," he said, adding "rugby is a cheaper sport to play than hockey. All you've got to do is buy yourself a good set of rugby boots, shorts, a rugby shirt, a mouth piece and you're good to go."

He said Scotland could win the 1999 Rugby World Cup, which is being held in Europe.

Knights whip Redeemer in basketball

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights men's basketball team tipped off their 1998-99 season with an impressive 98-76 win over Ancaster's Redeemer College Royals.

"A 22-point win is a good start to any season," said Knights' head coach Jeff MacDonald, who is in his second season as the Knights' coach.

The Knights came out on fire, jumping to a quick 10-0 lead before Redeemer finally hit the scoreboard.

However, the Royals weren't willing to lie down and fought back to take the lead before the teams headed to the locker room at the half, tied at 42.

"We let them know that they have to play a 40-minute game," said assistant coach Ric Ethier. "It doesn't matter who your opposition is. In the OCAA, you're going to have teams who are not going to give up, no matter what."

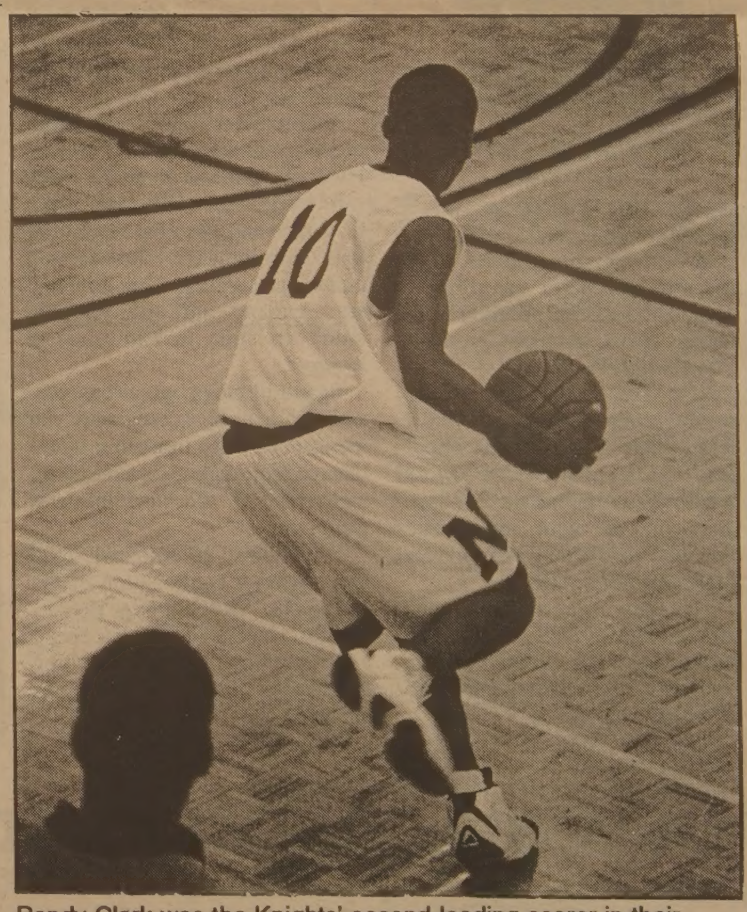
"That's just a normal basketball game," said MacDonald. "The opponent will always fight back. That's why the game is 40 minutes and not 20."

The Knights came out in the second half and dominated.

"We went on a 30-10 surge," said Ethier. "We netted 20 (points) in about seven minutes. We're hoping to do that consistently throughout the year."

Leading the way for the Knights was Curtis Francis, who was hitting numerous jumpers and even a jam in the second half.

"The first half we came out and started really strong," said Francis, 19, a first-year student in the Business Administration program. "But we might have taken them for granted coming out with such an early lead. We played (better) in the second half."



Randy Clark was the Knights' second-leading scorer in their home opener.

Photo by Lee Whitehead

"The first half we played mediocre," said Randy Clark, 19, a first-year student in the General Arts and Science program. "We came out hyped up and thought everything was going to take care of itself. In the second half, the coach got our heads (back) into the game."

Top scorer for the Knights was Francis with 26 points. Also scoring were Clark (19), Steve Boyle (16), Dave Klassen (13), Halden Hutchison (12), Paul Stewart (four), Mike Wencel (four), Kyle Handrahan (two) and Brett Elliott (two). Marcus O'Connor and Jeff Pettit didn't play because of an injury.

Next action for the Knights will be tonight at 8:30 p.m. when they will host Sarnia's Lambton College.

Women win by 10 points

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

The Niagara College Knights women's basketball team snapped a two-game losing streak with a 55-45 win over Ancaster's Redeemer College Royals on Nov. 19.

However, the win did not come easy for the Knights, who ran into foul trouble in the first half and were unable to take control of the game.

"I think they came out thinking they were going to walk all over this team," said Knights' coach Georgie Groat, 29, of St. Catharines. "When they didn't, they got frustrated."

"We came out (over) confident," said Kristin Flindall, 19, a second-year student in the General Arts and Science program.

Try as they may, the Knights could only manage a slim 25-24 lead as the two teams went to the locker room at the half.

"I told them that they needed to work harder on defence and they needed to make better passes," said Groat. "They needed to give 100 per cent and if they weren't willing to do that, they were coming off."

The Knights came out shooting in the second half. They extended their lead to as many as 12 points, after a 9-0 run midway through the half, mainly because of the 10 points by Melissa Hallborg.

"We got really riled up for the second half," said Hallborg, 19, a first-year student in the Accounting (Co-op) program. "We were kind of slow on defence in the first half. It was much better (in the second half). We came out more aggressive, for sure."

On the negative side, Knights' second-year player Kristin Davies left the game with a knee injury. Originally, Davies's kneecap was thought to have been fractured. However, further examination after the game revealed her knee had only been badly sprained.

"I don't even know how I did it," said Davies, 20, a second-year student in the Social Services Worker program. "Me and the (Redeemer) girl were fighting for the ball and I just landed on my knee cap."

Top scorer for the Knights was Kristin Flindall with 16 points. Also scoring were Hallborg (10 points), Andrea Flindall (10 points), Davies (eight points), Candace Oxford (five points), LeighAnn Breault (four points) and Heidi VanDerWier (two points).

"We have a long way to go," said Groat. "We have a lot of things to work on."

"We're gradually getting there," said Kristin Flindall.

Next action for Niagara is Saturday, Nov. 28, when they host Niagara County Community College in an exhibition game at 1 p.m.

Sports

Men's volleyball team wins

BY BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

The Niagara College men's volleyball team took three of four games from Mohawk College on Nov. 13.

The men won the first game 15-7, lost the second 12-15, but redeemed themselves by winning the third and fourth games 15-7 each.

Josh Gunnell led the Niagara team with 13 kills and two aces, playing in three of the four games. Matt Piccolo, who also played in three games, had 12 kills, two stuffed blocks and one ace to add to the team's total of 56 kills, 11 stuffed blocks and five aces.

The team's captain, Kerby Bently, is in his third year at Niagara and this is his third year on the team.

"In the second game the passing was there, but the set selection and serving were off and the intensity was lost," says Bently, adding a lot of the guys expect to be hyped all the time and when they lose that tempo they don't respond well.

During the second game, Mohawk had some good serving.

"We didn't close the door on them," says Bently. "We left it open . . . lost our intensity and they gained theirs. It's a game of emotions and they took over."

Niagara came back to win in the third and fourth games.

"In the third game our alternate starters came on. They are guys that don't always get to start in games," Bently says, adding they are still good players and would start on any other team.

He says the alternates had the intensity Niagara needed to win.

"They wanted to prove themselves and they did."

Bently says the outlook for the season is good, although there is a need for more veterans to "get a better mix and proper balance" on the team.

"But the rookies are great. They're learning fast and working hard. I've never seen a group of guys work so hard," says Bently.

Next home action for the rookies and veterans of the men's team is Friday, Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m. against North York's Seneca College in the Welland campus gym.

Shawn Barbizon goes for a kill, set by Josh Gunnell, during the warmup of the men's first volleyball league game on Nov. 13.
Photo by Barbara Doddy

McKeown struggles

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Recovery is a long process.

"The ankle is slowly but surely getting better," says Corey McKeown, 21, a second-year Law and Security Administration program student.

McKeown, a member of the Niagara Knights men's volleyball team, suffered a season-ending injury when he severed his Achilles tendon in an exhibition game on Oct. 10.

"It's still a little sore," he says. "This is probably one of the worst injuries you can ever get."

McKeown says he hopes to be playing volleyball again next year.

"I hope to be back next year, in better form than I was before (and) hopefully to lead the Niagara Knights men's volleyball team to a championship."

McKeown says coping with an injury of this nature is difficult.

"It's a long struggle. I just (have) to fight through the pain and discomfort and hopefully things will work out for me in the long run."

Women's volleyball team off to great start

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

The Niagara College women's volleyball team started off its season with three convincing wins on Nov. 13.

"The girls definitely worked together as a team and that was one of the things that we were trying to accomplish," says Carolyn Schatz, the women's team head coach.

The Knights took all three games against Hamilton's Mohawk College by scores of 15-7, 15-12, 15-6.

"They're communicating well. They're working together and having faith in other people around them on the court," says Schatz.

"Otherwise, we're trying to win our games. We have a rookie setter and she really ran a good third game. We're really trying to work out the kinks."

The women had a good feeling about the wins.

Iazayana Chavez, of Welland, a second-year Police Foundations program student, played two of the three games and had five kills.

"We're awesome," says Chavez. "I think we have a chemical bond. Once we're together it just mixes."

"I feel like I played well, but the way I played is not important. It's about the team," she says.

Michelle Stenton, of Chatham, the team's captain, a post-graduate Geographic Information System program student, says the team really improved over its last performance.

"The team really has come together. There are some young players but they've really worked hard at practice and it's paying off," says Stenton.

About half of the players on the court are rookies.

The team had 37 kills and eight aces in the three games.

Liana Collins led the team with 17 kills and played in all three games, but said the game is about teamwork.

The women play their next home game tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the Welland campus gym against Thunder Bay's Confederation College.

Goal 'to make it to the provincials'

Hard work recipe for success

By JEFF BOLAN
Staff Writer

The varsity curling team is getting ready for a run at the provincials.

Our goal is "to make it to the provincials," said Scott Banner, the team's coach.

"There is a lot of promise," in the team this year, said Banner, but "it takes a little bit of hard work."

Banner said team practice and chemistry will play a vital role in the success of the team.

"If you don't practice, it's a 50-50 chance you are going to lose," he said.

The regional playdowns will start on Feb. 4, and will be held in Welland this year. The winner of the regional's will travel to Hamilton later that month for the provincials. No date has been yet been set for the provincials.

College varsity curlers Jacqueline Smith, Carlos Pena and Sharilyn Johnson watch as an opponent sweeps their rock through the house.
Photo by Jeff Bolan

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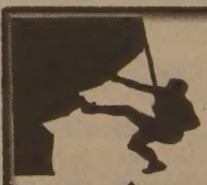
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Sports

Flindall accepts leadership role

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Playing an entire basketball game can be strenuous. Andrea Flindall, however, sees it as a challenge.

"I train hard," says Flindall, a first-year General and Arts and Science program student. "I'm ready for it and I feel confident doing it."

Flindall, 21, of St. Catharines, is in her third year on the Niagara College women's basketball team, and is one of four returning players from last year's squad.

However, last season was a disappointing one for the Knights because of a lack of players.

"It was a tough year for us," says Flindall. "We only had seven players by the end of the year. It was hard to get serious about it. We couldn't have good practices and we were getting beat by a lot of points."

Flindall says it was hard to stay motivated for the whole season, but the few players on the team were able to keep it together.

"We all love the game. We all wanted to be there, we wanted to do well and we wanted to prove that we could do it even though we only had a few players."

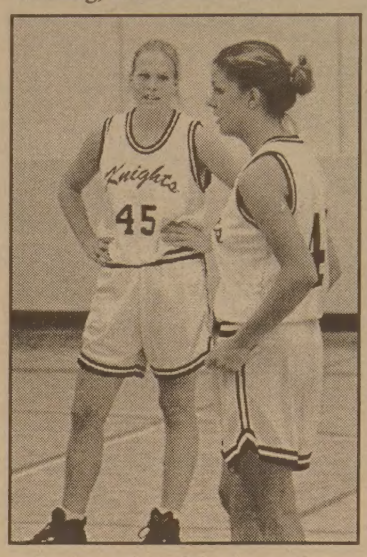
Despite the disadvantage, the Knights made the playoffs before being eliminated in the first round.

This year, Flindall says she sees good things happening.

"We have a lot of talent this year. It's really exciting. We're expecting to finish in the top four. We should get to the second round of the playoffs and hopefully to the finals."

New to the women's team this year is Georgie Groat, who replaces Tara Petrachenko as the Knights' coach. Flindall says Groat is a "good" coach.

"She's been more serious, but maybe because we do have more talent. She lets us have our fun, but we're also really serious (about winning) at the same time."



During a break in the action, Andrea Flindall (45) discusses strategy with teammate, friend and sister, Kristin.
Photo by Lee Whitehead

One of the returning players is Flindall's younger sister, Kristin.

"I think we're both competitive people," says Flindall. "I think all good athletes have that in them. It makes us better. We push each other on.

"We're totally different players. My strengths are her weaknesses and my weaknesses are her strengths. We try to better each other and help each other out. We do it in a positive way."

Last season, Flindall, her sister, and Kristin Davies all represented the Knights in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association all-star game.

Flindall says there is no conflict between the three players and the ball gets distributed evenly.

"Last year, the ball was always in our hands. This year we have good team players. We definitely don't see the ball as much this year, (but) we all get our fair share."

Of all the new players on the team, Flindall says she has been most impressed with Candace Oxford.

"We have the same position. We work well together. I think she's going to be a really good player. She already is. Definitely, with more experience, she's going to be a leader on the team in the future."

Flindall says she believes her most important role on the team is to keep everyone motivated.

"I think, being the point-guard, I kind of control the team. I either have to speed things up or slow things down. I take control of the team and keep everyone positive, motivated and working hard."

Flindall says this job can occasionally be difficult.

"A leader, often times, has to help (teammates) out by telling them their faults. Sometimes it's hard because I am friends with everyone on the team.

"By winning, we motivate ourselves. We push ourselves because we do want to win. We do want to get better."

Riemersma deserves job

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

A certain rallying cry has been heard often on a Buffalo radio station pertaining to the Bills' tight end position: "Why is No. 84 out there when No. 85 is better?"

Lonnie Johnson (No. 84) has been the Bills' starting tight end since the departure of Pete Metzelaars in 1995. Although he is a well-built, quick and agile athlete, Johnson has proven he can't play the tight end position in the National Football League (NFL).

Tight end is not a position which gets a lot of recognition but it is one that has always fascinated me. An NFL tight end must be quick enough to outrun linebackers, have great pass-catching ability and be strong enough to shake tackles and block defensive linemen.

Ben Coates of the New England Patriots fits these requirements. Johnson doesn't.

During his four years as the Bills' starting tight end, Johnson has missed numerous blocks, dropped passes and run the wrong pass patterns.

Twice this season, quarterback Doug Flutie has overthrown Johnson in the endzone because Johnson couldn't complete his pattern. Johnson's infamous for being a master of the one-yard reception.

However, the Bills do have a player capable of being an excellent tight end.

Second-year man Jay Riemersma (No. 85) has proven he is the real deal during his limited playing-time.

Last year, Riemersma played exceptionally well as Johnson's backup, but was too small to be an every-down player.

During the off-season, Riemersma added 30 pounds through weight-training and is now ready to compete in the NFL.

The Bills' coaching staff, however, refuses to give Riemersma the starting job.

This symbolizes what is wrong with the Buffalo Bills' franchise. Players prove they are better than the starter but still don't get the chance to play full time.

It's a recurring theme for the coaching staff. They are too stubborn to admit to a mistake. Instead, they'll play the player they picked as starter rather than insert someone better.

Although he has been given more playing time, Riemersma has proven he should replace Johnson as the starting tight end on the Bills, but still hasn't.

Knight rookie looking to make an impression

Small-town girl, big-time player

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

She came from a tiny town to Niagara College.

Home for LeighAnn Breault, 19, of Ridgetown, is three hours away, so she's keeping her spare time filled as one of the new rookies on this year's women's basketball team.

"There were only about 450 students at Ridgetown," says Breault.

The small southwestern Ontario town is famous for being "the friendliest town in Ontario."

Breault says southwestern Ontario is known for its basketball so she's used to playing with competitive people, but at Niagara she finds there's a different atmosphere.

"I think making the team was more competitive back home but the idea of teamwork is more emphasized here."

It's that emphasis that has brought the women on the team together, Breault says, adding during the tryouts everyone started to "hang around each other." Now there is always a call made to a teammate when something's going on.

"It's a whole new set of friends."

One thing she says she does miss is the fans, friends and family at every game to support her.

"Most of the girls on the team are from St. Catharines or Niagara Falls and all their parents come (to the games)," says Breault. "I have my friends from classes and residence but it's not the same. I'm used to having my parents there."

She's been home twice since September and finds it hard to manage varsity sports and trips home. She won't be able to go home again until Christmas.

"But when we go to Fanshawe (College in London, Ont.) that's when a lot of my friends and my parents will be able to come and see me. I'll pretty much have a fan club there."

For now she's concentrating on school and basketball.

"A lot of the girls have more experience playing in other leagues and for provincial teams . . . there are people here who really stand out."

But she's confident she'll be able to hold her own and knows her teammates will be there to support her.

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Eye On Niagara

Teamwork: recipe for success for printer

Award-winning printer continues to grow in size

By JEFF BOLAN
Staff Writer

GRIMSBY — Old-fashioned work ethic and new technology are the recipe for success at CanWeb Printing in Grimsby.

The company has grown quickly since opening in 1992.

"The company has grown from the ground up by treating people right," said Liz Holinaty, office manager.

The company has grown from four people to about 60 employees in six years.

One of the corporate goals when it opened was to create an atmosphere which would let employees "be really proud of what they do," said Holinaty.

The company's motto is prominently displayed throughout the warehouse: Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM).

Holinaty said the company tried to "create an atmosphere where most people were happy to come to work most days," adding she thought CanWeb has been successful in achieving that goal.

The company prints a wide variety of materials, including the *Niagara News*, magazines, business cards, menus, coupon books and telephone books.

'There's just no end to the variety of printing the company does.'
—Liz Holinaty

"There's just no end to the variety of printing the company does," she said. "If you can think of it, odds are we can print it."

The company has high quality standards. "Our quality, our service, our dependability and our honesty write our cheque for tomorrow," she said, referring to another of the company's credos.

She said customer service and satisfaction play a key role.

"For most of the customers, I can tell you the name of their dog," she said. "If we don't take care of our customers, somebody else will."

The company continues to modernize. It accepts printing material prepared on computers and is beginning to receive materials over the Internet.

Julie Dyball, the graphics supervisor, said the new technology is "incredible," but the Internet access is a little slow. It can take "half an hour for an ad" to be downloaded to the company's computers.

Two new printing presses were added this past year as part of a 4,800-square-foot expansion of the company's warehouse.

CanWeb prints "pretty much around the clock," said Brian Johnson, a shift-leader who works on the printing press.

CanWeb recently won the prestigious Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Enterprise of the Year Award at the fifth annual Niagara Entrepreneur Awards.

"What a prestigious thing, to have this award," said Holinaty.

John Gillesbie, CanWeb's pre-press supervisor, demonstrates how to use the company's enlarger.

Photo by Leah Farnan

Cafeteria gets new look

By CHARLIE ASHBURY
Staff Writer

A new look and plenty of new options make Niagara College's cafeteria at the Welland campus the place to eat.

In case you haven't noticed, the cafeteria in the Black Walnut building has gone through a few renovations. It has become a place full of choices for hungry students. Now students have more variety, and another choice from Mr. Sub and the Donut Diner.

Pete Mete, food and service director at Niagara College, says the cafeteria has been totally refurbished to give students and faculty more choices when they eat.

"The students no longer have to leave the campus because we've met most of their needs right here," says Mete.

Among the new changes are weekly specials and a fresh pasta bar that will serve seafood on Fridays.

Tim Hortons new location is also generating plenty of interest.

"The Tim Hortons has been greatly accepted by the staff and students. We've received many compliments," says Mete.

The changes to the cafeteria took place during the summer over six to eight weeks. With the addition of the Tim Hortons a number of new jobs were created and the cafeteria hired some new staff.

"We brought in about a half a dozen new people," says Mete.

The changes won't end here.

"We're going to bring in wraps like the ones at McDonald's, and the Italian panini-style sandwiches."

Another thing Mete says he hopes to soon have in place is a fresh salad bar where you can order your favorite salad and the staff will make it right in front of you.

"We're just listening to what the staff and students want and try to give it to them," says Mete.

Company offers scholarship

By MÉLANIE BLAIS
Staff Writer

Canada Cutlery Inc. (CCI), of Toronto, offers scholarships and awards for students at Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

Bethany Ashton, 26, of St. Catharines, was the recipient of this year's award, presented on Oct. 27.

Ashton, a graduate of the Culinary Management program, received a set of tools and knives worth more than $1,000 for having the highest grade point average in last year's graduating class.

"I'm a little bit surprised that they offer a gift like this," says Ashton, a cook at the St. Catharines Club.

CCI began marketing in Canada about 50 years ago and has expanded to the United States. With numerous scholarships, CCI supports chef and cook training at post-secondary institutions throughout North America.

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Eye On Niagara

Real world experience

Service, fine dining

By MELANIE BLAIS
Staff Writer

Volunteering time while in college may pay off later for some Niagara College students.

Cook Apprenticeship Level 1 and Hotel and Restaurant Management program students learn how to cook and serve, and then apply what they've learned by working in the Kerrio Dining Room at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls and by volunteering for catering events and banquets.

Debby Willms, dining room and special events supervisor, teaches some classes in the two programs.

Willms says the Cook Apprenticeship Level 1 students learn how to cook and serve food.

She says learning how to serve is as important as cooking because students see how the customers react to the food they've prepared.

"You could spend 16 hours in the kitchen preparing it (food), but it's not going to be worth five cents if it's not served properly."

Willms teaches the second-year students in the Hotel and Restaurant Management program for 14 weeks. They also learn the basics, as well as fine dining, silver service and flambé desserts.

Willms says not everything students learn is used in the industry today, but it looks good on a resume.

Willms says her goal is to have the service be "perfect." She says she doesn't expect it at the beginning of the term, but closer to Christmas "everything falls into sync and it's like an orchestrated event."

By volunteering their time, Willms says the students will get more exposure and see what it's like to work outside the school environment.

Students also get "outside input" from the two technicians working with them. Sharon Coyle, from Murphy's Restaurant and Peg Leg Tavern in Port Dalhousie, works the lunches with the students, and for the dinners, it's Bryan Vasko from On The Twenty Restaurant and Wine Bar in Jordan.

"With them comes the outside experience. Bryan and Sharon can say 'this is what's going on in the real world,'" says Willms.

Willms says she can refer students to people in the industry. "The more times you volunteer for something is almost like networking."

Willms says students work closely with the community, "and by them (the community) coming in here to dine, they support us."

Centre provides guidance, support

By SARA DE TAMBLE
Staff Writer

FORT ERIE — It began three years ago. An idea formed in Dale Hirons's mind. It grew and evolved into what has become the Fort Erie Teen Centre, an alternative to the YMCA for youth in Fort Erie, but with a fresh new twist.

Hirons, a 53-year-old husband and father of two, lives in Fort Erie and brainstormed the idea for the centre in August 1995.

Hirons's daughter Laura, 15 at the time, complained to him there was "nothing to do in Fort Erie," and she was right, says Hirons.

"When we were kids we used to play sports. Kids nowadays don't do that, and there's not even a movie theatre in town for them."

Hirons says the centre was never intended for his children, now 19 and 21. "The need was out there for the community. That's why we're doing it."

The Fort Erie Teen Centre is open to youth aged 10 to 19. It is a spin-off from the YMCAs and boys and girls clubs of the past, says Hirons, but with some innovative ideas.

The YMCA charges over $100 per child for a yearly membership. A membership at the centre is $5 per year.

"We don't want to make money from the kids. We just charge the membership fee to give them a sense of belonging," Hirons says. The centre, he says, appeals to parents as well as children.

Donna French, mother of murder victim Kristen French, gave a violence-prevention seminar for parents at the centre last March. In April a murder-mystery dinner theatre was held.

For children, the centre offers sports, arts and crafts, self-defence classes and help with homework, if needed. It also provides a one-on-one counselling service Monday nights to help youth with any problems they might have.

Tina Ianniello, 25, of Fort Erie, provides the counselling service free of charge. Ianniello is a graduate of the Sociology program at Brock University and says she volunteers at the centre because she enjoys helping youth.

"To see results is a great experience for me."

Ianniello says during her counselling sessions she doesn't talk to the teen as an adult, but tries to take herself to the teenager's level.

"I've noticed that finally both genders are coming out," Ianniello says. "I realize it's a big step for them to ask for my help."

The centre is a non-profit organization.

"All the money we make from our bingos, dances and fund-raisers goes right back into the kids," Hirons says. He has started a food program this month offering fruits and vegetables, juices, soups, stews and Kraft Dinner on a nightly basis.

Hirons says he closed the centre in August for summer holidays, but reopened with a bang on Sept. 8. The centre hosts an average of 40 to 60 youths nightly.

As successful as the centre has become, getting started was no simple task, Hirons says. There was "no support" from town hall and little recognition from the community.

There was just an idea in his head and his own determination to make it work, says Hiron's wife, Peggy, 50.

"This dream would have died long ago if it wasn't for Dale. He's the one who wouldn't give up."

Hirons says the first year was spent working bingos to raise money for outings to the Toronto Zoo and Buffalo Bisons' games.

The centre also held two dances, says Hirons, but they still needed a building where the centre could be located. That was solved in November 1997, when members of the Central Avenue United Church came to him and offered the use of their basement and some upstairs rooms to house the centre.

The basement contains a gym, a kitchen and an area where Hirons has set up foosball and ping-pong tables. Upstairs is an arts and crafts room, Ianniello's counselling room and the centre's offices.

Hirons says he recently bought some computers he hopes to connect to the Internet to add a computer room.

"Most of the boys are downstairs playing sports," says Hirons, adding he'd like to start a movie night for the girls, but can't because of a lack of volunteers to supervise it. Hirons says this need is his biggest problem.

Teen Centre volunteer and board member Reggie Goulding, 48, of Fort Erie, says he agrees with Hirons that more volunteers are needed.

"We'd like for this to be a community centre," says Goulding. "When we have eight to 10 volunteers we play with the kids. When we have four or five, we discipline them. Huge difference."

Hirons says he's pleased with the centre's success. In the future, he says he hopes to have two centres, one in Fort Erie and another in Ridgeway. This goal needs much more town support, more fund-raising and a lot more volunteers but he's hopeful it could happen one day.

"We have to have goals," Hirons says. "The purpose of the centre is to provide a place where kids can feel safe, offer them guidance and try to keep them in school."

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Humour

Happiness awaits, Sagittarians

What does the week ahead hold for you?

By SARA DE TAMBLE
Staff Writer

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) — Exciting job prospects are just over the horizon. You will get the answer to a question you've been waiting for and the outcome will be better than you could have ever imagined.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) — A fun weekend away will boost your sagging spirits and get rid of the stress you've been feeling since midterms. A younger relative who idolizes you will ask your advice.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) — A new job boosts your self-confidence, but it's not a career option. The opportunity to move down south will present itself, but don't turn it down without serious thought. Now's the time to go, and with your intelligence and charismatic personality, you're sure to be successful wherever you go.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) — Someone you met this past weekend wants to be more than just friends. Give him/her a chance. True love is sometimes found as a result of unlikely circumstances. You will receive money from unexpected sources.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) — Someone from your past is about to become an important part of your present and possibly even your future. The issues that kept the two of you apart before have been resolved. The only thing standing in your way now is that neither of you wants to make the first move. Maybe it should be you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) — Your maturity impresses those around you who have authority. This could lead to a raise or promotion. The strong feelings you have for a friend are growing with every passing day. Keep in mind you're not the only person who realizes how great he/she is. If you don't move quickly, someone could easily take your place.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) — You have good intentions but that plan you've been formulating needs a little fine-tuning. Turn to old friends for the encouragement you need to get started. The guidance they provide will be crucial to your achieving success.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) — A situation at work needs your full attention, don't jump to conclusions before you have all the facts. Talk to a few differen't people to get more than one perspective before you take action. This is a serious matter and you need to be well informed before you make any decisions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) — There's something you've been wanting to do for a while, but you're not quite sure how to go about it. Now's the time to make your move. Only you can know what will make you happy — go after it! A friend you've known since childhood thinks you're a cutie.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) — There is a limit to how much you will put up with and someone you've been dating is testing that limit. Tell him/her what you expect and if that person can't handle it, move on. It's one less Christmas present you'll have to buy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) — Start saving money now for a shopping spree you're planning during the holidays. A lie you told in the past will resurface. Now's the time to set the record straight. It won't turn out as terrible as you feared.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) — A close friend needs your help to get out of a bad situation. Bite your lip when the confession comes spilling out. You could find yourself involved in similar circumstances one day.

For entertainment purposes only.

Dating tips

The ladies are not impressed with the pencils-in-the-nose trick.

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Life on the Street

Mission providing refuge from the cold

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

TORONTO — The days are shorter. Nights are colder. Yet most of us don't worry for we have a warm bed to sleep in.

However, some people in Canada don't.

Nowhere is this more evident than in Toronto where thousands of homeless people call the street home.

Christine Nunes, of Toronto, is the acting supervisor of the men's ministry at The Scott Mission, 502 Spadina Ave.

Located on the border of where Chinatown stops and the University of Toronto begins, the mission is where the lonely and despairing come to seek comfort.

Nunes, a 10-year mission veteran in January, said they get a wide variety of people coming for help.

"We find that the homeless issue is a very complicated, multi-dimensional phenomenon."

She said there isn't one particular factor that suggests a person is homeless.

The common cases are people addicted to alcohol or drugs, or those with mental illness, which plays a "big role," said Nunes.

Many of the people coming to the mission often have low self-esteem, poor social skills or come from broken families, she said.

They see people who have lost touch — at some level — with reality, because of mental illness, she said.

"It's almost like a subculture," said Nunes.

The Scott Mission offers meals and clothing to those in need, she said.

It's part of the Out-of-the-Cold program started by multi-faithed churches and organizations. This means they're open on Monday nights with enough beds to sleep 25 men or women and five emergency beds.

"Unfortunately, we're not able to meet them (the need) every night," said Nunes.

The mission is funded through private and corporate donations, she said, adding there's no government assistance except for the nursery. This is minor in comparison to other areas of the mission.

If someone is mentally ill, unable to deal with everyday life, how can they possibly go about filing all the paperwork, "faxing this and that" and running all over the place, she said.

"They just can't cope with this, so they'd rather not deal with it at all."

What are the options? Panhandling, stealing, lying or cheating, said Nunes.

"Your options start dwindling," she said, adding "you lose your sense of community."

Homeless or not a person still has the right to the basics such as food, clothing, shelter and dignity, she said.

"I think a lot of people just want to find some place where they can be."

They will not be welcomed in most coffee shops, for example, because "maybe they smell, or they're unorganized... there's obviously something just not right with this person.... So you want to provide environments where they are still welcome."

Billy, from somewhere in northern Ontario, is one of the unfortunate souls who doesn't have a home to call his own.

Dressed in a long winter jacket with his right arm concealed by his sleeve as if it had been injured or maimed, and carrying his "lucky cup," Billy has a childlike innocence about him.

He answers questions as a child might by giving short answers or simply saying yes or no.

Billy doesn't really know how long he's been on the street — it could be anywhere from two to 15 years, according to him.

Losing his job at a nickel mine in northern Ontario is what put him on the streets, he said.

He claims to be able to make $300 a day panhandling at his favourite place, Union Station.

Billy said he feels badly about panhandling but, at the same time, is mad because "people don't care."

The homeless situation is not getting any better in Toronto, she said.

As for the number of homeless in Toronto, Nunes said, "It's a growing problem and, unfortunately, there is no way to really monitor how many homeless there are on the street."

Nunes said the coroner hasn't been able to determine the number, yet there have been estimates of anywhere between 20,000 and 22,000.

The City of Toronto defines homeless as people with low-cost or no housing, she said.

This means they could be in boarding houses, hotels or hostels, but they're still considered homeless since they don't have adequate housing, she said.

The mission has its regular visitors.

"A lot of our regulars have been coming for many years and they will very well die on the street.

"It's frustrating, it's really frustrating at times."

Nunes said this year has been especially hard because quite a few people have died on the street. Several memorial services have been held.

"They're wretched, they really are, because we're saying here is the time to celebrate the life of this person and what they meant to us." Yet, she adds, these people are watching their brothers and sisters die on the street.

"They avoid memorial services like the plague because all it does is remind them of themselves — this could be them."

Although Ontario has social assistance programs available for needy people this is not always a workable option.

For some of these people, especially those with mental illness, government assistance is just another complicated process they can't deal with, she said.

Mental illness is a broad area, she said.

"Even something as complicated as schizophrenia has so many different faces, and so many different labels."

The sidewalk in front of a convenience store on Queen Street in Toronto provides a place to sleep for one of Toronto's homeless.

Photo by Sean Coffey

90 years of caring

The Scott Mission has a long history in Toronto.

In 1908 the Foreign Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church in Canada established a Christian witness to Jewish immigrants under the direction of Rev. S. B. Rohold. Their headquarters was on Terrauley Street (now Bay Street) in downtown Toronto.

In 1912 a building was erected on the corner of Elm and Elizabeth Streets and named The Christian Synagogue, (this building has since been torn down and replaced).

The Christian Synagogue was renamed The Scott Institute in part to honour the memory of the Rev. J. MacPherson Scott, a minister of St. John's Presbyterian Church in Toronto who died in 1920.

Morris Zeidman, the first superintendent of the Scott Institute, came to Toronto just before the First World War. Zeidman had become a Christian through the ministry of the Christian Synagogue and took the position in 1926, after graduating from Knox College in 1925.

In 1941, Zeidman resigned from the Home Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church and the Scott Institute ceased operations.

The Scott Mission was founded in new quarters as an independent non-denominational faith mission.

After changing locations a few times over the years the Mission is located at 502 Spadina Ave. where it continues offering its services to the community.

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